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Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief on Arab Reconciliation, Israel Boycott

NC1411174094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, has stressed that recent developments in the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis give a glimmer of hope for achieving Arab reconciliation based on frankness. In a statement on the sidelines of the second annual meeting of young researchers on "Arab Reconciliation," which began in Cairo today, he said that this trend must be supported and strengthened.

'Abd-al-Majid stressed that there will be no peace with Israel without the return of all the occupied Syrian and Lebanese territories and implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. He noted that ending the Arab boycott of Israel and establishing the Middle East market is linked to establishing a comprehensive peace.

Arab Leaders Told To Take Time on Normalization

NC1511071994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM writes that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Washington raises many questions about the settlement on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks as well as about launching the second phase of negotiations in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, the phase that Israel is trying to delay.

In an editorial today, AL-AHRAM adds that Rabin will discuss many issues, primarily U.S. efforts to speed up a settlement on the Syrian and, accordingly, Lebanese tracks. The paper notes that the United States is trying, through its secretary of state's regional tours, to push Israel and Syria toward a middle solution in the Golan.

AL-AHRAM states that the more the Arab leaders take their time and think about things as they consider normalizing relations with Israel and the features of the so-called "New Middle East," the faster the pace of a settlement on the Syrian track will be, because Israel will have to restrain its policy of procrastination and stalling.

'Abd-al-Majid Supports Modification of League

MM1011150894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Nov 94 p4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he agrees with the call made by King Hassan II of Morocco for the development of the Arab League but does not favor the creation of a new league. Former Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, on the other hand, expressed support for King Hassan's ideas and for the creation of a new Arab league.

In an interview published by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, King Hassan II said that the Arabs needed to think about a new Arab league in view of recent developments. He stressed the importance of preserving the Arab League now. His call triggered widespread reactions in Arab official and political circles.

In Cairo, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, underscored the undeniable importance of the Arab League as a pan-Arab organization in contemporary Arab history.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that he agrees with Moroccan King Hassan's call for modification of the Arab League's functions because that has been on the League's agenda for some time. He said the Arab League is willing to discuss any ideas proposed at Arab level by any Arab state whether through intensive contacts, as is currently the case, or through special meetings to discuss modification.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that he did not examine the statements of the Moroccan monarch in depth yesterday morning but would study them objectively today.

The Arab League secretary general said that he is all for the effective development of the League's role as the home of all the Arabs but he is not in favor of creating a new league. He added that, in his view, King Hassan could not possibly have meant the creation of a new Arab league.

In Tunis, former Arab League Secretary Chedli Klibi expressed support for the ideas and proposals of King Hassan II of Morocco calling for the creation of a new Arab league. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he said that King Hassan was right, and he stressed the need for joint Arab action "to ensure that every one of our Arab states is strong and is in a position to deal with all the world blocs to serve Arab interests and gradually achieve equality between our states and the outside world."

He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that King Hassan II was right, saying that the new phase requires not only a new charter but also a new structure to shoulder the new historic responsibilities, which is what he meant by a new Arab league. He said that the termination of the Arab-Israeli conflict will herald a new era in which the Arab states will have to deal with the issues of development and technology. [passage omitted]

King Hassan's Proposals To Renew League Lauded

MM1011163394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Nov 94 p9

[Editorial: "Arab League Renewal"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is a need to preserve the Arab League and there is also a need to renew it in a way suited to the new tasks the Arabs look forward to in a new world.

In his interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT and MBC Television, King Hassan II of Morocco spoke of the need to reexamine and reshape the Arab League in line with the changes that have occurred in the world and in the region since it was formed about half a century ago. The truth is that the circumstances in which the Arab League was born have changed completely. Looking back, one can see that the tasks given to the League were very simple. Most Arab states were under the yoke of imperialism and their economic and political capabilities were limited. Many major events have now occurred and have changed the situation. There have been some great changes which lifted many Arab states to the level of the advanced states in the third world. The Israeli presence and various challenges played a major part in raising the level of Arab thinking and Arab realities. Despite the many obstacles faced by Arab societies as a result of that challenge, they have become much stronger than they were 50 years ago, militarily, economically, and culturally.

The circumstances in which the Arab League was born have changed completely. The new world circumstances call for change in all directions, including the international organizations and the old conditions and relations between states based on foundations which no longer exist in the worlds of politics and economics.

The remark made by King Hassan II about the need to reconsider the Arab League was significant. He clearly said: "We must keep the Arab League despite its ills and shortcomings." That is an extremely important remark because it explains the change the king wants, being a call not for an alternative to the Arab League or for the League's demise but a call for restructuring it on new foundations that would give it a role commensurate with the cohesion and solidarity the Arabs now need to ward off many new dangers, particularly after the termination of the Arab-Israeli hostility and the start of a new era and a new regional system which may be even bigger than the Arab League itself.

This call for the restructuring of the Arab League in harmony with the new circumstances is of paramount importance. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT had drawn attention to that in previous articles. King Hassan's statement has come to confirm that importance and to clearly expose the Arab League's failure, in its present situation, to keep pace with the changes that have occurred in the region and the world. It is much more than a question of just changing the charter or not changing it. The very idea is in need of renewal.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 8 Nov

NC1111115294

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 8 November edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Muslims Urged To Help Flood-Stricken Areas
2. Al-Azhar Rejects 'The Emigrant' Film Script
3. Scholars Meet To Discuss Problems Facing Muslims
4. Religious Education of Security Forces To Be Intensified
5. Western Interests Fear Islam
6. Islamic Dress, Veil Issue at 'Ayn Shams University
7. Chief Editor on 'Scheme' to Weaken Islam

MUSLIMS URGED TO HELP FLOOD-STRICKEN AREAS

A 3,200-word report on pages 1, 12, and 13 by Mahmud 'Ushub, Jamal Salim, and Ahmad Sha'ban cites the views of various Muslim scholars, including the mufti of the Republic, on the need for Muslims to help their brothers and sisters who are the victims of the floods and fires that swept Upper Egypt. They all exhort Muslims to rush to the aid of their countrymen in whatever way they can and praise the official and popular response that helped alleviate the suffering in the stricken areas. However, they urge that such actions should not be limited to the stricken areas as there are people in dire need of help and relief all over the country all the time who are worthy of help. They also urge that the country and people be ready at all times to face any natural disasters that might befall them. Several of the scholars argue that the catastrophes are a warning from God to the people to return to the right path. Thus, Dr. Musa Shahin Lashin, a teacher at al-Azhar University, says that "the catastrophes that struck Egypt today (the floods) are a warning from God Almighty to rectify the course and correct the situation and the mistakes by those who have deviated and who are walking along the course of deception, opportunism, selfishness, and corruption." Other scholars interviewed urge that the people should be psychologically prepared for such catastrophes and list some of the measures that ought to be taken to avoid catastrophes caused by man, such as fires.

AL-AZHAR REJECTS 'THE EMIGRANT' FILM SCRIPT

A 200-word unattributed report on page 1 deals with the issue of "The Emigrant" film, which is now before the courts. It says that the Al-Azhar told the court that it had asked the director, Yusuf Shahin, to change parts of the script but he did not do so. The Al- Azhar adds that the film as it is now contains derogatory expressions violating the morals and traditions of society.

SCHOLARS MEET TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS FACING MUSLIMS

A 100-word unattributed report on page 2 says that scholars from 40 countries are participating today [8 November] in a conference in Cairo to discuss the problems facing Muslims, including "the issue of Jerusalem; the dispute between Jordan and the Palestinians over who should be in charge of the Islamic shrines in the city; and the conditions of Muslims in Bosnia, Somalia, Kashmir, Afghanistan, and elsewhere."

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OF SECURITY FORCES TO BE INTENSIFIED

A 350-word interview with Major General Samir Fu'ad, assistant interior minister and commander of the Central Security Forces [CSF], by an unidentified correspondent appears on page 2. He says that he has ordered "the CSF commanders to intensify religious enlightenment and to pay more attention to the religious and cultural education of the officers, noncommissioned officers, and recruits to explain and deepen the forces' religious principles and arm them with the weapons of religion and creed." He adds: "We are making strenuous efforts to prepare the security men, especially those in the CSF, and they receive the highest level of training in confronting criminals, because the confrontation with the terrorists is a religious and patriotic duty." He notes that excesses among the security forces are not the norm and that any security man who goes too far is brought to account. He stresses that the security forces are doing their job as best they can in protecting individuals, establishments, and interests.

WESTERN INTERESTS FEAR ISLAM

A 4,000-word report on pages 4 and 5 by Mamduh al-'Ishari and Mustafa 'Alam-al-Din details the visit of the 'AQIDATI convoy of scholars to the Islamic Renaissance Society in Dar al-Salam in Cairo. The scholars answer various questions by the society members on Islam's tenets and rulings and their interpretation. To a question on the reason for the West's fear of Islam, Dr. Muhammad Fayid Haykal says: "There are those who have interests and fear that these interests will change or collapse if people embrace Islam. If people respond to Islam, the regimes and the material trends and systems will change and hence the interests will be lost, greed will end, and oppression will come to an end when justice prevails. This is why they are fighting Islam ferociously. But to call those who adhere to Islam extremists is baseless because Islam is the religion of moderation and tolerance. This appellation is given to those who opt for one of the two extremes, the exaggerated inflexibility or vice and deviation. A person who goes to extremes against what God and religion have ordained is an extremist. Likewise, the one who becomes depraved and strays from the right path is also an extremist." 'AQIDATI's editor then reiterates al-Azhar's stand on the film "The Emigrant" in reply to a question.

ISLAMIC DRESS, VEIL ISSUE AT 'AYN SHAMS UNIVERSITY

A 2,000-word interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab 'Abd-al-Hafiz, president of the 'Ayn Shams University, by Mahmud 'Ushub appears on page 10. He talks about the main factors in building the personality of university students and in preparing them to face life after graduation. Responding to an observation that the university is being criticized for not teaching Islamic culture studies, he says that this is not the university's job as students are expected to have these lessons in their primary and secondary schools; the university's role is to organize seminars where ulemas can answer questions on religion. In reply to another question about the issue of female students wearing the veil or the Islamic dress, Dr. 'Abd-al-Hafiz says: "I do not have the right to choose what the students wear as this is up to their families." He adds: "What we are concerned with is that the female student is wearing the Islamic dress out of conviction. I would like to point out that a large number of female studentf in the university wear the Islamic dress and we have not and will not ban them from doing so. But we do ban those who wear the veil for security reasons because I have to know who is standing before me and who is entering the examination hall. We cannot ban the Islamic dress because it was ordained by God and I cannot ban anything ordained by God. As to indecent clothes, such as those made from stretch material and such, female students wearing such clothes are banned from entering the university and the orders on this are quite clear." He then talks about the plans for the future and the development of the curricula. He praises the Students Union for its commitment to and abidance by the law, adding that the "students, both male and female, do not know extremism, bigotry, inflexibility, or violence but discuss the issues logically and objectively."

CHIEF EDITOR ON 'SCHEME' TO WEAKEN ISLAM

Chief editor al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf writes in his "Call to Reason" column on pages 24 and 23 about the schemes and plots against Muslims, Islam, and Egypt, asking whether they are coincidental or not. In his 400-word column, he says: "The Islamic nation, especially Egypt, is the target of a major plot by foreign forces that are abetted by local ones. The plot has several objectives: 1. to weaken Muslims; 2. to preoccupy the minds of Muslims with trivia and myths instead of discussing their main problems and finding solutions to them; and 3. to deal a blow to Islam by making the deterioration of Muslims' conditions, the issues of extremism and terrorism, and what they call political Islam an argument against Islam. Will we wake up? Will we take notice of this plot or will we let them ruin us?"

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 11 Nov

NC1411215594

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 11 November edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Brotherhood Condemns Partition of al-Ibrahimi Mosque
2. Labor Party, Islamists Assist Flood-Stricken Citizens

3. Students Demonstrate Over Anti-Islamists Measures
4. Labor Party Detainees Named
5. Labor Party Commemorates Jerusalem Martyr
6. Christian Fundamentalists Win U.S. Elections
7. 'Hostile Policies' Toward Muslims in France Highlighted
8. Writer Views Political Islam, Islamic Party

BROTHERHOOD CONDEMNS PARTITION OF AL-IBRAHIMI MOSQUE

An approximately 400-word statement by the Muslim Brotherhood condemning the partition of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron is published on page 1.

On the same page, Muna Yasin comments on the same topic in an approximately 350-word report. Yasin notes that the decision to partition the al-Ibrahimi Mosque has caused widespread resentment among Muslims worldwide, who fear that this precedent could be later applied to Jerusalem's al-Aqsa Mosque. Yasin adds that the Israelis continue their "provocative practices" at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque, which is flooded by hundreds of soldiers and extremist settlers, who "stack their weapons and machine guns in a room adjacent to the mosque."

LABOR PARTY, ISLAMISTS ASSIST FLOOD-STRICKEN CITIZENS

AL-SHA'B continues to give prominent coverage to reports on the floods that swept some parts of Upper Egypt earlier this month. Several reports published in the newspaper describe in detail the magnitude of the disaster and the government's failure to promptly come to the aid of the flood-afflicted areas. The reports also highlight the Labor Party's efforts to come to the rescue of the flood-stricken citizens. In this regard, an approximately 1,500-word report by 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im on pages 1 and 6 describe Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri's visit to various villages in the Governorates of Asyut, Suhaj, and Qina beginning 6 November. During his tour, Shukri expressed condolences to villagers and listened to their account of the disaster. 'Abd-al-Mun'im notes that Shukri visited the flood-stricken areas one by one and "walked in the mud from one village to another" to find out for himself the magnitude of the disaster and urge the party members to do their utmost to help the villagers because the disaster is much greater than it has been described in the official media.

An unattributed 1,200-word report on page 2 describes the efforts made by Labor Party members to assist the displaced villagers and distribute relief supplies to them. The report notes that the "Islamic trend" has hastened to rescue the flood-afflicted citizens. In this regard, the Muslim Brotherhood received the villagers who fled Durunkah village in the Hayy al-Arba'in and Gharb al-Balad Mosques in Asyut, where they were given blankets and food before they received supplies from anyone else. The report adds that a delegation from the Muslim Brotherhood, Professional Associations, and the Asyut University Teaching Staff Club visited Durunkah and other villages the day after the disaster while students and female teachers from the Islamic Hira' Schools in Asyut visited the wounded in Asyut hospitals and supplied them with food.

In a related issue, an approximately 400-word message of condolences from Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, General Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, to the families of the flood victims is published on page 6. After sympathizing with the villagers over their losses, Abu-al-Nasr notes that this catastrophe must not pass without learning the lesson behind it. He notes that the occasion provides an opportunity to "remind all of us to seek forgiveness and repentance from God Almighty." However, he points out that "the necessary scientific studies must be conducted to avoid similar incidents or reduce their dangers and results." He then urges all the Egyptian people, Muslims and Christians, to unite in lending help to the afflicted people.

STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE OVER ANTI-ISLAMISTS MEASURES

Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid, in an approximately 1,200-word report on page 6, notes that more than 3,000 Cairo University students staged massive demonstrations on 9 November to protest the security measures against student activity, the removal of names of Islamists from the list of candidates running for the Students Union's elections, and the continued detention of students. More than 725 names are said to have been removed from the candidate lists, 15 students detained, and 570 others expelled from the university's dormitory at the request of security agencies, according to the report. Female students in the Dar al-'Ulum College also demonstrated on from 6 to 8 November to protest the expulsion of four female students, one on charges of possessing a copy of the Koran in her dormitory room. The report notes that students in al-Mansurah and Alexandria universities staged similar marches to protest similar measures.

LABOR PARTY DETAINEES NAMED

The names of 24 Labor Party members said to be held in Egyptian prisons are published on page 6. The list gives the name, date, and place of detention of each member. Above the names, an unattributed 120-word report notes that for months the government has been practicing the "worst type of terrorism" against the party members. The report adds: "The party members and their active leaders, particularly the labor leaders, have become targets for detention without charges and merciless torture. Amicable contacts and legal measures have proved fruitless, for how could legal measures be of any use in the face of detentions that disregard the law and torture that undermines legitimacy on human rights?"

LABOR PARTY COMMEMORATES JERUSALEM MARTYR

An approximately 250-word report by an unnamed AL-SHA'B correspondent in al-Daqahliyah reviews a seminar held by the Labor Party in the governorate on 8

November under the name of "Islam Is in Danger; Who Will Protect It?" Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn and others spoke at the seminar. In his speech, Husayn notes that what has happened to 'Isam al-Jawhari, an Egyptian who carried out a suicide operation in Jerusalem on 9 Oct, serves as a message that Islam is in danger. He adds: "Hence, we need people who lift our morale and always remind us of our values, instead of the state's attempts to instill humiliation and weakness in the hearts of our youngsters." For his part, Islamic preacher 'Isam al-Sharif points out that al-Jawhari "has come to awaken this generation and force us to alert our minds and take our religion seriously." Islamic thinker Kamal al-Sa'id Habib notes that al-Jawhari has fulfilled the concept of martyrdom, which the ruling authority is trying to wipe out and our media is trying to obliterate.

CHRISTIAN FUNDAMENTALISTS WIN U.S. ELECTIONS

Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah comments on the results of the U.S. congressional and governorship elections in an approximately 600-word report published on page 6. He notes that "Christian fundamentalists from the U.S. Republican Party have achieved an important victory in the mid-term congressional elections and in governorship elections." He notes that the results were particularly clear in the southern states, which support the fundamentalists. 'Arafah notes that the fundamentalists believe in the return of all Jews to occupied Palestine, protection of Israel from the Arabs, and that a decisive battle against evil will take place to prepare for the return of Christ. Since the defeat of their candidate Pat Robertson in the 1988 nominations for the presidential elections, 'Arafah adds, the fundamentalists have changed their tactics, reorganized themselves, and decided to gradually take over the Republican Party. 'Arafah notes that this victory raises questions about future U.S. policies, which he believes will be more pro-Jewish, since the fundamentalists believe in the need to protect and arm Israel as a biblical and religious goal.

'HOSTILE POLICIES' TOWARD MUSLIMS IN FRANCE HIGHLIGHTED

Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah, in an approximately 1,200-word report on page 8, views the French Government's "hostile policies" toward Islam. As part of these policies, the French Government has dismissed four mosque preachers, deported 30 Muslims, and arrested more than 3,000 others. He notes that in February 1994 a law was passed banning the circulation of some Islamic books, including books by Muslim Brotherhood founding member Sayyid Qutb, for promoting anti-Western and anti-Jewish trends. He adds: "It is clear that there is a general French policy, in which all French institutions are participating, to assimilate Muslims by force into French society and its secular traditions, and those who reject this can leave."

WRITER VIEWS POLITICAL ISLAM, ISLAMIC PARTY

In an approximately 2,000-word article on page 9 entitled "Political Islam and the Islamic Party", Dr. Rafiq Habib notes that writing on the subject of political Islam is like walking into a mine field. Because people either fully support or totally reject the idea, it is almost impossible for a writer to take an objective view of the matter without upsetting either side. The writer begins by stating that the existence of a "political Islam tide" in Egypt and in Arab and Islamic states is an undeniable fact. However, he adds, the question is whether to treat political Islam as an enemy or one of the trends within the society. The writer notes any faction of political Islam that seeks to operate as part of the legitimate trends in the society must reject or disavow violence and accept religious pluralism. He explains: "An Islamic party that supports a certain religious sect and rejects other religions or sects is, in the end, a party that excludes others and, therefore, must itself be excluded." Likewise, he adds, an Islamic party that does not accept the existence of secular trends that are not hostile to religion is also a party that is excluding others. He notes that an Islamic party must differentiate between "religious practices" and "political practices." He adds: "In political matters, we must adopt the opinion of the majority, and the minority has to accept it while retaining its right to opposition." Habib adds that an Islamic party that imposes the veil on all women once it reaches power is a party that excludes others and, therefore, should itself be excluded. He adds: "An Islamic party that takes all these things into consideration—not excluding others and not discriminating against them after gaining power—is a party that deserves to be given legitimacy and allowed to engage in free and lawful political action." For their part, he adds, secular parties must acknowledge any Islamic party that does not seek to exclude the others. Concluding, he adds: "The fact is that an Islamic party that recognizes the aforesaid conditions and is ready to accept others, any others, is a secular party, because it will not be a dogmatic party that uses politics to impose dogma or a political party that uses dogma to engage in politics." Such a party, he adds, would adopt the values and principles of religion and turn them into social and political thought and into practical policies and programs.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Phones King Husayn; Jordan Visit Discussed

JN1411155994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian National Authority, today telephoned His Majesty King Husayn and congratulated him on his birthday anniversary. The conversation was brotherly and cordial.

His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat and His Majesty King Husayn have agreed to remain in contact. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, his excellency the president's adviser, has stated that the two leaders discussed His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

'Arafat Says Jordan Hamas Headquarters

TA1411160294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A group of Peace Now activists toured the Gaza Strip this afternoon and met with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that in the meeting, 'Arafat complained about the Palestinian Authority's serious economic difficulties and said that up to now the autonomy had received only $68 million out of the $700 million promised by the donor countries.

'Arafat also noted that the headquarters of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] was in Jordan and complained that Israel was signing agreements with a country in which Hamas activists were represented in parliament.

'Arafat To Visit Jordan; 400 Observers To Deploy

JN1411131294 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Nov 94

[Report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah in the occupied territories]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Palestinian source announced in Gaza today that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will soon visit Jordan to meet with King Husayn of Jordan. The source added that 'Arafat has accepted the Jordanian monarch's invitation for him to meet and discuss the differences that overshadowed the Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

In another development, 400 international observers are scheduled to deploy in the Gaza Strip within the next few days. They will be in charge of stopping any violations by the Palestinian or Israeli side. This deployment is in implementation of an agreement reached in October between Shim'on Peres, Israeli minister of foreign affairs, and Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority [PA]. The international force will consist of observers from Norway, Turkey, Austria, Finland, Canada, and two EC states.

In yet another development, the Israeli Housing Ministry sources said the construction of settlement houses began in the West Bank despite the agreement reached between the PLO and Israel to resume talks on the redeployment of the Israeli Army and the transfer of the rest of powers to the Palestinians in the West Bank. The sources said work began on the construction of 1,050 houses in the Betar settlement south of Jerusalem, which currently comprises 1,200 houses.

In the meantime, the Palestinians are preparing to celebrate the sixth anniversary of the declaration of independence for the first time since the implementation of the Declaration of Principles and the PA's assumption of responsibility for the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area.

More on Observers in Gaza

JN1411174194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with the agreement that was reached during the Palestinian-Israeli Higher Liaison Committee meeting in Cairo at the end of last month, 400 international observers will be deployed in the Gaza Strip in the next few days.

Under the agreement that was signed by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, and Shim'on Peres, Israeli minister of foreign affairs, the international protection force in the Gaza Strip will be tasked to monitor the situation and submit reports to the parties on any violations by the Israeli or Palestinian sides. This force will also work to enhance dialogue in the region.

'Arafat Condemns Netzarim Attack

TA1411130394 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Nov 94 pp 1, 19

[Report by Amnon Kapeliuk]

[FBIS Translated Text] "We will not let anyone destroy peace," PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said in a special interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT yesterday in his Gaza office. 'Arafat was very determined: "We hold a very grave view of the attack in Netzarim, and we have taken several steps."

He noted that in its last meeting the autonomy authority "endorsed an unequivocal statement condemning the recent attack. Let me read the full document to you."

He pressed a buzzer, and his secretary, Dr. Ramzi, appeared. 'Arafat asked him for the draft of the resolution made at the meeting and dictated it to me: "The Palestinian National Authority Council regards the recent armed attack as an act that not only violates the law but also attempts to mock the National Authority and the Palestinian people. We totally reject such acts. It has been decided to take the appropriate steps in reaction."

"Such steps," he said, "are the arrests carried out among the Islamic Jihad activists. We have arrested 136 Islamic Jihad members...."

One of his advisers sitting next to him remarked: "We should add another 14 people to that."

'Arafat went on: "We arrested Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, the leader of the Islamic Jihad, who was hiding outside his home. We will allow no violation of the law!"

After some thought, 'Arafat added: "At the same time, we must not forget the act that preceded the Netzarim attack. This is an endless chain of violent actions. An Islamic Jihad leader was murdered here, in Gaza, under our rule. This upset many people. People made charges against me. I want to say that, apparently, we know who did it. It was a local person who collaborated with the Israelis. We will lay our hands on him. One attack only creates another, and there is no end to this."

Will there be no end?, I asked.

'Arafat: "It will last some more time. It is hard to promise that there will be no more attacks. On our part, we fight them as much as we can. Anyone familiar with the situation today will say it is so. Also, we must not forget that the number of attacks will drop as the economic situation improves."

There was much commotion in 'Arafat's office in the Rimal neighborhood. Commanders of the Palestinian police came in and out of his office, and notables sat in his reception room, waiting for a meeting with 'Arafat.

"I am optimistic despite everything," he said. "We are walking on a road on which there is no turning back. They will not succeed in destroying peace, not here and not there, in Israel."

'Arafat Addresses Graduation of 1st Force 17 Class

JN1011183894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 10 Nov 94

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS [illegible]lated Text] Under the patronage of His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, PLO chairman and head of the National Authority [NA], a celebration was held today on the occasion of the graduation of the first class of Force 17, headed by Colonel Faysal Abu-Sharkh, at Force 17 headquarters in al-Shaykh Radwan in Gaza. President 'Arafat inspected the forces and the military band played the national anthem.

President 'Arafat delivered a speech, greeting the graduates and calling on them to safeguard national unity. He added: The people's safety and unity are the responsibility of the Palestinian army, which has achieved feats in arenas of glory in the homeland.

President 'Arafat stressed that national unity alone will be our shield with which we confront all difficulties. President 'Arafat also called for activating all potential and for working even more diligently to build the Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

President 'Arafat paid tribute to the martyrs and greeted the detainees, emphasizing that the march will continue until a Palestinian child hoists the Palestinian flag over Jerusalem's walls, minarets, and churches. He said: We all are potential martyrs for Jerusalem, the capital of our Palestinian state.

Many officials accompanied President 'Arafat, including Colonel Fatimah al-Barnawi, NA Secretary General al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Justice Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn, and Palestinian Police Director General Brigadier General Ghazi al-Jabali.

At the end of the ceremony, President 'Arafat distributed gifts to the trainers and the outstanding graduates and praised their efforts.

'Arafat Invites Islamic Activist's Grandson to Gaza

TA1111121694 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Eli Bohadana]

[FBIS Translated Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is trying to bring 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam's grandson into the Gaza Strip.

The grandson, 40, who is a senior Islamic Movement activist in an Arab state, is slated to establish a party which will unite all the religious factions in Gaza.

'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam was one of the founders of the Islamic Movement. The Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] murder squads are named after him. 'Arafat believes that by bringing in the grandson, support for him among Hamas supporters will increase.

'Arafat's Adviser Welcomes Husayn's Remarks

JN1311170794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, has welcomed the statements made by His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan, in which he affirmed that the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem is a trust with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan until the Palestinians spread their sovereignty over Jerusalem. He said: This stand by the Jordanian monarch embodies the strong and distinguished fraternal relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian people. He added that it is also in harmony with the Arab stand and international legitimacy vis-a-vis Jerusalem.

Abu-Rudaynah added: We are always eager to strengthen the distinguished relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian people to serve the Palestinian issue and Arab causes, as well as to restore the usurped rights.

Fatah Elections Postponed Till After General Vote

TA1311120594 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Jon Immanuel and Lamia Lahoud]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The High Council of Fatah in the territories has decided to postpone its elections in Judaea and Samaria until the implementation of the autonomy there and the redeployment of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops, said council member Ahmad Adrik.

Another Fatah leader from the territories said the council decided to postpone the elections after consulting with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

He said 'Arafat advised delaying the vote until after the general elections and the redeployment of IDF troops in the areas.

'Arafat was skeptical of the Fatah elections from the beginning and never gave them his blessing, he said.

Adrik said the purpose of the elections was to unite the local Fatah movement and strengthen its leaders before the Palestinian Authority [PA] takes control of the territories. However, he said the results in Ramallah's elections on November 4 only exaggerated the split within Fatah.

According to Adrik, two rival factions were among the 15 members elected to Fatah's executive council.

In another development, 'Arafat has appointed two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists to official positions on the Palestinian religious courts, in the first appointments of Hamas members to the PA since he took office.

The two are Hamid Bitawi of Tulkarm and Mahmud Salamah of Gaza. Both are already religious court judges, but now they will work officially with the PA supreme religious courts Justice Muhammad Abu-Sardanah as his deputies.

The appointments were confirmed in the press and by Bitawi's family.

Bitawi was among the 400 Hamas activists expelled by Israel for one year to Marj al-Zuhur, in south Lebanon, in 1992. He is considered to have great influence on Hamas ideology. He is one of the top two qadis or Islamic court judges.

Bitawi is also head of the Palestinian Theologians Society. On Friday [11 November], the same day as the appointments were announced, it was reported in the Arabic press in Jerusalem that Israeli security agencies are cracking down on the society, which they see as the highest decision-making body of Hamas. Security forces confiscated the society's leaflets outlining Islamic opposition to normalization with Israel, AL-QUDS reported.

The religious courts deal with much the same issues as Israeli religious courts: marriage, divorce, conversions, and disputes among neighbors.

Until now 'Arafat has avoided giving Hamas supporters any official positions, including those they were ready to accept such as membership in provisional municipal councils. Religious appointments such as the new Palestinian mufti of Jerusalem went to Fatah supporters or independents. The new appointments have not met any opposition inside Hamas.

Abu-Middayn on Arrest Campaign, Carrying Weapons

JN1411150994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Furayh Abu-Middayn, "justice minister" in the Palestinian Authority, by Hasan Abu-Zayid in the studio; date not given; from the "With The Midday Events" feature—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-Zayid] Mr. Furayh Abu-Middayn, justice minister in the Palestinian Authority [PA], what are the latest measures the PA and the Palestinian police have taken following the Netzarim incident?

[Abu-Middayn] Well, they took measures and steps in accordance with last Saturday's decision by the National Authority [NA], the Council of Ministers, and the Higher Security Council. These measures did not change and remain as they are; that matters should be settled by not having two authorities in the Gaza Strip. We act on this basis to prevent the existence of two authorities. The time has come for the NA to prove that it is the only authority which has a say concerning security matters in the Gaza Strip. All the measures that were taken over the past three days were to confirm this principle, irrespective of whether this incident took place here or there. We will not allow the existence of two authorities, especially after the pandemonium we saw on television two or three days ago.

[Abu-Zayid] Mr. Abu-Middayn, this means that you will ban demonstrations or popular gatherings?

[Abu-Middayn] Only with special permission from the police command. One must obtain a permit in accordance with the law. Otherwise, this will be a violation of the law, and we will not hesitate to arrest any person who violates this.

[Abu-Zayid] What about carrying weapons in the streets?

[Abu-Middayn] This is a serious manifestation, and the time has come to end it. Carrying weapons has become more of a violation of the law and an act of hooliganism than an acceptable legal thing. That's why everyone must know that weapons will be confiscated and those who carry them will be jailed. We allowed weapons to be kept at home, as well as the licencing of small weapons such as pistols and hunting rifles. But matters have exceeded the limit recently. Weapons are being smuggled from Israel to the Gaza Strip, and this is not permitted.

[Abu-Zayid] With respect to the Islamic Jihad members who have been arrested, what measures will be taken against them?

[Abu-Middayn] Well, the law will apply to them. They will be interrogated, and those who have committed a violation will be brought to trial and the laws in force in the Gaza Strip will be applied to them.

[Abu-Zayid] With respect to the recent Netzarim incident, will the Palestinian police adopt new measures on the joint crossings to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

[Abu-Middayn] No one can prevent the recurrence of such incidents. There will be bridges in Netzarim and Morag. This is not the solution. The solution is to remove these settlements which stand isolated here and there. I believe that whatever the measures, they will not succeed in preventing incidents like the one which took place this week. Therefore, we repeat what we have said many times that the Israeli side must realize that the settlements are the basic obstacle to peace and that it must seriously think of removing them. Israel should start by removing three settlements in the Gaza Strip which will always be a source of friction and bloodshed. That's why this is the appropriate time to make a courageous decision on these settlements by removing them, or at least transferring them to the settlements area in Khan Yunus.

[Abu-Zayid] Lawyer Furayh Abu-Middayn, thank you.

Authority Receives Control of Social Affairs

JN1311181394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The National Authority [NA] today received control of the social affairs sector in the Hebron and Bethlehem areas, as a first step to receiving control of social affairs throughout the occupied territory.

In Bethlehem, social affairs powers were handed over to the NA in the presence of Tourism and Antiquities Minister Ilyas Frayj, as the representative of the NA. [passage omitted]

In Hebron, social affairs powers were handed over to the NA today in the presence of Dr. Dhiyab 'Ayyush, under secretary of the Social Affairs Ministry. [passage omitted]

Authority Declares 15 Nov Independence Day

JN1411071394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tomorrow is independence day. The National Authority council of ministers has decided to consider tomorrow, 15 November, a day of public celebration in all Palestinian schools, universities, and institutions on the occasion of the independence declaration issued by the Palestine National Council in 1988, which announced the birth of the Palestinian state. Accordingly, 15 November will be celebrated every year as a glorious national day for the Palestinian people on the occasion of independence day.

PA: New Order Bans Unauthorized Demonstrations

TA1411151794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Furayh Abu-Middayn, the official in charge of justice in the Palestinian Authority [PA], disclosed this morning that the PA has issued a new order banning unauthorized demonstrations. Abu-Middayn confirmed the detention of Islamic Jihad leader 'Abdallah al-Shami, but his wife claims he is still hiding from the Palestinian Police. In the interview, Abu-Middayn also sharply attacked Islamic Jihad saying they have crossed the red line. Qobi Meydan interviewed Abu-Middayn earlier today:

[Begin recording] [Abu-Middayn, in English] There is a red line and the Islamic Jihad crossed this red line, you know, twice: once in the mosque with Chairman 'Arafat, but really what is very serious and very dangerous, what has happened after the incident in Netzarim. Actually, in the television, if you saw, this is Iranian- style. We could not accept this Iranian-style to provoke the people and to demonstrate in the streets. This means there is two authorities and two authorities in Gaza. It means everything will collapse.

[Meydan translates the above and continues] But maybe the problem is that you act against the demonstrations after they took place and you don't have enough power to prevent such demonstrations?

[Abu-Middayn, in English] Yes, exactly. This is a new instruction, a new order, to all the police and all our authorities. From now, nobody can demonstrate, nobody can celebrate, without permission from the head of department of the police in the Gaza Strip. Now we are going to forbid anybody to do any demonstration or any meeting in any place—in a street or in a hall or in any other thing—without permission. [end recording]

PA Confirms Islamic Jihad's al-Shami Not Arrested

TA1411183894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A senior official in the Palestinian Authority [PA] has confirmed that the leader of Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, has indeed not been arrested. Speaking to Qol Yisra'el, the senior official said however that al-Shami's brother, Taysir, was taken in by Palestinian Police in Gaza City this afternoon.

Executive Committee Explains Boycott of Gaza Session

JN1411184094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab by Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given; from "With the Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mu'addi] Mr. Yasir 'Arafat has called a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee. Why are you boycotting the session?

[Al-Najjab] To begin with, as I said in [word indistinct] statement, this meeting was scheduled without reference to the Executive Committee members. I heard about the meeting from the news agencies. And no agenda has been set for the meeting. As you know, the official headquarters of the PLO is Tunis, not Gaza. Such an important meeting after such a long time should have been more thoroughly prepared and more consultations with the PLO Executive Committee members should have preceded it. A good many of the PLO Executive Committee members will not turn up for the meeting for the reasons I have given. It is unfortunate that the date for a meeting that I and other colleagues had worked to get convened and prepare an agenda for should have been announced the way it has. We want a real meeting and such a meeting should be well prepared.

[Mu'addi] The Executive Committee is a point of reference for the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Do you think the Committee still has the authority and pull it once had?

[Al-Najjab] The Executive Committee, as decided by the Palestinian Central Council, is the PA's point of reference. However, since the PA came into being, the Executive Committee has not been used in that capacity, nor has any agreement signed by the PA with the Israelis been referred to it. Unfortunately, weakening the Executive Committee is a weakening of the PLO. As you know, there is a world of difference between the PLO's program—that of national independence, the anniversary of which we will mark tomorrow—and the PA's, which was set by the Cairo agreement; namely, transitional arrangements that are supposed to promote the implementation of Resolution 242. It is disturbing that these arrangements make the implementation of that resolution less likely and Israel is to blame for that. There is a real danger of this chance to make peace being missed. As you see, the gaps in that agreement are increasing, thereby increasing the risks to the security and peace of the two sides.

[Mu'addi] What then do you propose?

[Al-Najjab] I think that any meaningful PLO Executive Committee session must conduct a thorough revision of the entire negotiating process and putting it back on track as its first order of business. High on the agenda of such a meeting must also be negotiating on the final status as happened on other Arab tracks that have made breakthroughs, notably the Jordan-Israel peace treaty. In contrast, the Palestinian track is bogged down on the transfer of power and interim arrangements without a clue as to where the process is headed.

[Mu'addi] Thank you.

[Al-Najjab] You are welcome.

Daily: 'Abbas 'Will Not Attend' PLO Meeting

MM1511102394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Nov 94 p1

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih in London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureaus in Gaza and Amman, and agencies: "Abu-Mazin Will Not Attend Because He Was Not Invited"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) said that he will not attend the PLO Executive Committee's meeting scheduled to be held in Gaza tomorrow. He said: "The truth is that I have not been notified of such a meeting." He added: "My attendance of such meetings would depend on the circumstances, but if a meeting is going to be held tomorrow, I will not attend it." [passage omitted]

Executive Committee To Discuss Amending Covenant

TA1511065594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinians have informed Israel that the PLO's Executive Committee, which is convening in the autonomy this afternoon for the first time, will discuss annulling the clauses in the Palestinian National Covenant calling for Israel's destruction. Israel will therefore permit the entry of members from abroad. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

The Palestinians informed Israel late last night that the PLO's Executive Committee, which is due to convene in the Gaza Strip for the first time today, will also discuss preparations to abrogate the clauses in the Palestinian National Covenant calling for Israel's destruction. A senior defense source said Israel would therefore permit committee members from abroad to enter the Palestinian Authority [PA]. The Palestinians have officially called on Israel to permit the entry of two members: 'Ali Ishaq of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Archbishop Ilya Khuri, who is considered to have independent views.

We asked Dr. Samir Ghawshah, a PLO Executive Committee member, what the aim of the deliberations is. He said that the PLO is the source of authority for the PA and that the aim of the meeting is to survey the changes and innovations and to reevaluate positions. The committee has 18 members, but seven members have already announced that they will not be coming from abroad for the meeting and attacked 'Arafat for his intention to convene it. Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], an architect of the Oslo accord, who is in conflict with 'Arafat, has made a political alliance with Faruq Qaddumi, who opposes the Oslo accord, in opposition to convening the Executive Committee in the PA. Sulayman al-Najjab, a representative of the People's Party and committee member, who is already in the West Bank, announced that he would boycott the meeting. The PLO said it will only be known this afternoon whether the Executive Committee can be convened in a limited forum. Everything depends on 'Arafat, a senior PLO official said.

PFLP-GC Issues Statement on Operation

JN1411194594 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A military spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has issued the following military statement: In response to successive Zionist atrocities against our people in the occupied homeland and the Zionist plans to Judaize land and sanctities under the umbrella of capitulationist treaties with certain Arab regimes and the agent leadership of 'Arafat's [Palestinian] Authority and to the bestial Zionist aggressions on the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in the steadfast south [Lebanon] and the camps, and in confirmation of the fact that sustaining the conflict with the Zionist enemy is our Arab and Muslim nation's fate to stand up to the American-Zionist onslaught in the region, and out of that nation's faith that armed struggle is the only way to liberate Palestine and all occupied Arab territory, the PFLP-GC's fighters carried out the operation of Jerusalem and the Ibrahimi Mosque martyrs at 1700 [1500 GMT] yesterday Sunday 13 November 1994, by ambushing a Zionist military patrol made up of a Merkava tank and a mine sweeper on al-'Ayshiyah al-Rihan axis in southern Lebanon. The fighters showered the Zionist enemy's mechanized cars with rockets and machine gun fire setting them on fire and killing all members of the patrol.

Although Zionist helicopters joined the combing a short while after the successful operation, which was acknowledged by the Zionist radio and reported by world news agencies, our comrades returned safely to base.

We in the PFLP-GC warn the zionist enemy of the consequences of continuing its aggressions and brutal, racist practices against our kinsfolk and sacred sites in Jerusalem. We also warn 'Arafat and his unpatriotic Authority against continuing to play the role of a protective shield for the enemy soldiers and Zionist settlers by hounding, rounding up, and disarming the mujahidin. We further reiterate our rejection of all forms of negotiation with the Zionist enemy and liquidatory agreements under the banner of the so-called peace and insist on our right to resistance and adherence to the fighting Palestinian gun on the road to liberation and return.

It is revolution until the liberation of land and man.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

Jihad Vows To Continue Battle Against Israel

TA1411192694 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Jihad will continue to act against Israel but will refrain from confrontations with the Palestinian security services. At least this was what Fathi al- Shaqaqi, the head of the Islamic Jihad in Damascus told Qol Yisra'el this evening. Al-Shaqaqi asserted that the operations against Israel were planned at the local level and not in Damascus. Al-Shaqaqi spoke to our correspondent Linda Scherzer.

[Begin recording, in English] [Scherzer] What is your comment Dr. al-Shaqaqi on the mass arrests that have been made in Gaza?

[Al-Shaqaqi] I think this is a shame for 'Arafat to commit because Islamic Jihad refers to the killing of their brother Hani 'Abid.

[Scherzer] If your people stay in jail what will you do?

[Al-Shaqaqi] We will not do anything militarily against the authority or against the policemen.

[Scherzer] What about Israel, Dr. al-Shaqaqi? Will there be more attacks against Israel?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Our struggle will continue.

[Scherzer] As the leader of Islamic Jihad, would you agree to opening a dialogue with Israel?

[Al-Shaqaqi] A political dialogue? No.

[Scherzer] There are many members of the Islamic Jihad movement in Gaza that have gone underground, that are afraid that the Israelis will take revenge. Are you concerned about your own life?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Everyone is concerned about his own life but I want to tell you something: I am not afraid of death, and we like death as well as they like living. [end recording]

Police Undecided on Prosecuting Jihad Detainees

TA1511083494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] General Nasr Yusuf, the commander of the Palestinian autonomy police, said that he does not know whether the Islamic Jihad detainees will be put on trial, because the detentions were based on a political decision. He, therefore, also does not know how long the Islamic Jihad activists will be held in detention. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Gen. Yusuf said that the activists were arrested following demonstrations in the Gaza Strip last Friday [11 November].

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 15 November in a page A1 report by Ze'ev Schiff adds: "Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, known as the Islamic Jihad's spokesman, unexpectedly turned himself in to the Palestinian police. The action surprised PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian police chiefs. They will now have to weigh the advantage of keeping him in detention against the risk that it will outrage his supporters in the strip."]

Hamas Leader: 'Israel Will Disappear From the Maps'

BR1411152594 Rome IL GIORNALE in Italian 12 Nov 94 p 15

[Interview with Hamas official Muhammad al-Zahhar by Gian Micalessin in Gaza; date not given: "Hamas Leader Announces: We Will Annihilate Israel"—first paragraph is IL GIORNALE introduction]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza—[passage omitted] Professor Muhammad al-Zahar, with whom we met in a room at Gaza's Islamic University, started to gain international notoriety toward the end of 1992. In the freezing December of that year an Israeli Army truck deported him, together with 400 of his companions in the faith, to the Lebanese mountains. Now 42-year-old al-Zahar's name is definitely toward the top of the list of the persons that the Jerusalem government has decided to eliminate or capture after the massacre on the number 5 bus on Dizengoff Street, which claimed the lives of 22 Israeli civilians. When you remind him of it, he looks at you with a contemptuous smirk and shakes his head, with its thin beard. "So what?" he asks.

[Micalessin] So are you not afraid that this time Israel is in earnest?

[Al-Zahhar] They are welcome. If they want to kill me or someone else, let them go ahead: I am here. But do you think that the others will just stand by and watch; do you think that each one will await his turn? Do you think that we will bury our dead and give thanks? Do you know the story of the fox that ate a sickle? No? Well, just imagine what happened to the fox when it tried, let us say, to rid itself of it... The same will happen to Israel if it tries to rid itself of Hamas. The whole of Israel will explode.

[Micalessin] So will terrorism again become one of your methods of struggle?

[Al-Zahhar] You make me laugh when you ask such questions. Do you want me to answer, "yes"? OK. If terrorism is the main way to guarantee our survival, if there are no other ways to defend our rights, well, we will use terrorism. Are you satisfied?

[Micalessin] Fairly, but explain to me what the objectives of your struggle are.

[Al-Zahhar] It is simple: to build Palestine. A single Palestine, extending from Lebanon in the north to the Egyptian border in the south, and from the Mediterranean coast in the west to the Jordanian and Syrian borders in the east.

[Micalessin] So there is no place for a Jewish state...

[Al-Zahhar] No, for one simple reason: Because Israel is not a Jewish state, but a Zionist state backed by international imperialism. We have no problem in saying this: Israel will disappear from the maps.

[Micalessin] What would you like to do with the Jews living there?

[Al-Zahhar] As far as we are concerned, they can do whatever they want—either stay or leave. For us Muslims, the Jews have never constituted a problem as such. We have welcomed them whenever you Europeans have decided to rid yourselves of them. We started five centuries ago, when the Spaniards threw them out of their empire.

[Micalessin] I infer that you do not much like the peace treaty signed by Rabin and 'Arafat...

[Al-Zahhar] What peace treaty? That is no peace treaty: It is a security measure to protect the colonizers' settlements and to justify the existence of the State of Israel. The Israelis care nothing for peace: Their sole concern is their own security.

[Micalessin] And do you believe in peace?

[Al-Zahhar] We believe in peace, but what sense does it make to discuss it with people who do not want to know about it? It makes no sense; it is simply a waste of time.

[Micalessin] But for the moment do you accept the rules imposed by the Palestinian authorities in Gaza and Jericho?

[Al-Zahhar] What authorities! Our president must be chosen on the basis of our objectives, and our objectives are free elections for all Palestinians. First there must be an election, and then we can accept someone's authority.

[Micalessin] So do you not consider yourselves represented by 'Arafat's PLO?

[Al-Zahhar] We are a religious movement, and our sole faith is Islam. In 'Arafat's POLO there is nothing that has anything to do with Islam. So why should we feel represented by it?

[Micalessin] What is the alternative?

[Al-Zahhar] Simple: an Islamic state built in accordance with the models of the Sunna. And after the failure of this attempt by 'Arafat, this will be the only possible alternative.

[Micalessin] So no political cooperation with 'Arafat and his associates?

[Al-Zahhar] No, we will not take part in any activities at the political level. However, we will take part in all administrative activities, because we are represented at every level. Indeed, we will step up our involvement and will combat the corruption of those who have now seized power. When they have finished squandering the Palestinian people's money, we will constitute the sole alternative.

Hamas Member Among 2 Judges Appointed by 'Arafat

NC1211135194 Paris AFP in English 0933 GMT 12 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Nov 12 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat has approved the appointments of two religious court judges, including a member of the hardline Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) in the occupied West Bank, a senior Palestinian official said Saturday [12 November].

Shaykh Muhammad Abu-Sirdanah, presiding judge of the Sharia (Islamic law) court under the Palestinian self-rule authority, said he had selected the judges—Mahmud Salamah and Hamid Bitawi—on grounds of merit.

Bitawi had been deported to southern Lebanon by Israel for his links with HAMAS.

"Bitawi is a Moslem scholar and Islam is larger than movements," Abu-Sirdanah said.

"If he does belong to a movement it is from his own convictions and does not influence the appointment. We don't select on political grounds."

Another HAMAS member, 'Imad Faluji, denied that Arafat's appointment of Bitawi was aimed at bringing the fundamentalist group into the political process.

"I wouldn't call it a rapprochement. Rather, the authority doesn't want to cut links with us," Faluji said, adding that there had been no negotiations between the group and 'Arafat over political appointments.

The Palestinian authority cracked down on HAMAS last month, arresting some 350 of its members after the group kidnapped an Israeli soldier.

Most of the detainees were released two weeks later amid signs of an improvement in relations between the two sides.

HAMAS is opposed to the Israeli-PLO autonomy deal which launched self-rule in Gaza and Jericho in May, and has vowed to continue fighting the Jewish state.

Israeli Histadrut, Palestinian Union Reach Agreement

NC1411200694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 14 Nov (MENA)—Rasim al-Bayyari, secretary general of the Palestine Workers Union in Gaza, today said that an agreement has been reached with the Israeli Labor Union, the Histadrut. Under the agreement, the Histadrut will pay $3 million as a down payment from subscription fees in favor of the Palestinian workers trade unions. The Histadrut has been collecting fees from the Palestinian workers since 1970. This sum represents 1 percent of the workers' wages.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, al-Bayyari said that negotiations have been continuing between the Palestine Workers Union and the Histadrut since the Palestinian Authority took over power in Gaza and Jericho to regain the Palestinian workers' rights, estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars. He noted that after four meetings in Gaza, Tel Aviv, Oslo, and Brussels toward this goal, the principles of negotiations have been laid down to examine the Palestinian workers' rights. He noted that these restored funds will help sort out the trade unions in Gaza and the West Bank and create new job opportunities in these areas. He said that he will travel to Nabulus, the largest town in the West Bank, on Thursday to begin a series of meetings with workers and unionists there to draft the programs of unity between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in keeping with the Oslo and Cairo agreements.

Writer Views Reactions to 'Rift' With Jordan

JN0911115494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Nov 94 pp 1, 7

["First of two articles" by Lamis K. Andoni, "looking into Palestinian perceptions of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship in the light of the signing of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. The writer has just returned from a working visit to Gaza and the occupied territories."]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are alarmed by how the growing rift between Jordan and the Palestinian leadership is affecting their daily lives and future.

Most recognise that a future settlement will involve some sort of a bond, or at least an association with Jordan. Furthermore, the very details of their daily lives are already tied to Jordan in one way or another, and the rift is further complicating already intertwined ties.

They feel that ordinary people, who are already suffocated by the Israeli occupation, invariably end up paying the price for the fluctuation of Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

For example, one of the most important questions on people's minds concerns the Jordanian passports. What will West Bankers do and how will they manage if Jordan stopped issuing the two-year passports, which have been serving as mostly travel documents rather than citizenship certificates since the 1988 Jordanian severing of administrative ties with the West Bank.

But there is also the realisation that Palestinians cannot expect to have everything; basically asserting "independence from Jordan"—partly to make Israel come to terms with Palestinian sovereignty—without sacrificing the benefits of existing dependence on Amman.

Yet this situation leaves the Palestinians at the mercy of Israeli occupation and restrictions especially that the interim period, as agreed upon in the Oslo accords between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has neither freed them from the yoke of Israeli rule nor seems to promise an inevitable freedom down the road of peace talks.

Palestinian newspapers, particularly AL-QUDS, which is not free from official Palestinian influence, publish brief reports about Jordan's ban on the entry of Palestinian activists or officials or any act that is viewed as restricting or harassing Palestinians crossing into Jordan.

Fears are frequently expressed by ordinary Palestinians that their movement might be restricted by Jordan or even being interrogated by Jordanian security forces—regardless of evidence of such acts on behalf of Jordanian government departments but nevertheless an important indication of growing anxiety and uncertainty.

There is also a wide-spread feeling that the Arabs have left the Palestinians to Israel's mercy and to fend for themselves, Jordan, due to the geographic proximity and long intertwined political, economic and social relations, is always seen as a barometer for the relationship with the Arab World.

Thus, on the day of the signing of the Joranian-Israeli treaty reactions varied. Yet they all carried the conclusion that the Palestinians were left on their own to their own fate.

The reactions, however, varied over who to blame or how to apportion the blame. In most cases, people would blame the Palestinian leadership for signing a separate agreement with Israel and paving the way for, if not compelling other governments to follow suit.

Others blame the poor performance of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) that resulted in the failure of making real changes in the living conditions or towards easing the Israeli occupation.

But in all cases, regardless of the level of support or opposition to the Palestinian authority, there is a lingering feeling that the Palestinians are alone.

"We are left behind," the Arabs no longer care," and "why should the Israeli give us anything now that normalisation has started with the Arab World," are comments that one hears regularly across the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or even in Arab towns and villages in Israel.

A growing number of Palestinians are convinced that Jordan will play a major if not a crucial role in determining their future. The apparent contradiction between this conclusion and the feeling of abandonment fades when one tries to understand the underlying logic and to a large extent an emerging Palestinian thinking.

According to this thinking, while Palestinians are left on their own to struggle to end the Israeli occupation, their expected failure under the prevailing circumstances or the failure of their leadership will lead to the reassertion of Jordan's role.

This conclusion, shared by many, is not necessarily a reaction to what Palestinians perceive as Jordanian plans or intentions. Based on interviews, the conclusion reflects disillusionment in the peace process, at least on the Palestinian track, and an overwhelming feeling that the Palestinians are left on their own under conditions that might not allow their success to attain their freedom or nation state from Israelis.

Thus, regardless, of how realistic or unrealistic this conclusion might sound, many Palestinians are preparing to come to terms with it or how face it. Positions vary from total resentment to any Jordanian role to total support, and even demands that Jordan reasserts its role if the situation continues to deteriorate.

Consequently, it is interesting to observe how people develop positions on the basis of perceived scenarios even before the materialisation of specific steps towards their realisation. But this is what seems to be going on in the West Bank regarding Jordan, where people have already started to develop positions.

That is not to say that a clear-cut polarisation is evolving. There has been no opinion polls, partly because the issue is so sensitive, complex and even explosive. Polling experts admit that the issue goes far beyond a simple pro or against Jordanian role questionnaire that could be totally misleading in its results.

Jerusalem Mufti Denies Issuing Call for Holy War

TA1111134694 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Smadar Peri]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The Palestinian state will be set up only with the aid of jihad [a holy war] and not through negotiations," Shaykh 'Akramah Sabri, the Palestinian mufti of Jerusalem, said in an interview to a journal published in Cairo.

In response to comment published in the YERUSHALAYIM newspaper, the shaykh said: "I do not recall such an interview.

'Arafat recently appointed Shaykh 'Akramah Sabri to the post of "mufti of Jerusalem and the holy land." The interview with him appears in the October issue of the journal LIWA' AL-ISLAM, which is identified with Muslim radicals in Egypt.

In response to a question on whether the intifadah will continue, Shaykh Sabri said: "The intifadah goes on and will not cease. The whole world must know that the redemption of Palestine will not be carried out through negotiations but only through jihad, as the Prophet Muhammad told us. The jihad will continue."

In response, Shaykh 'Akramah Sabri said: "I do not remember saying such things, and I do not remember giving an interview to a newspaper by that name."

Algeria

FIS' Kebir on Break-Off of Government Dialogue

BR1011123494 Paris LIBERATION in French
10 Nov 94 p 14

[Interview with Rabah Kebir, representative of the Islamic Salvation Front abroad, by Jose Garcon in Cologne; date not given: "Algerian Regime Will Not Be Able To Eradicate the Islamic Movement"—first paragraph is LIBERATION introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabah Kebir, the representative of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] abroad, agreed to answer LIBERATION's questions from his exile in Cologne. Sentenced to death in Algeria, he is now living in Germany. At 40 years of age he is one of the FIS' "politicians."

[Garcon] General Zeroual broke off the dialogue, accusing the FIS of advocating the intensification of the armed struggle.

[Kebir] Enormous pressure was being put on Zeroual by the eradicators (those who reject any dialogue with the fundamentalists—LIBERATION editor's note). In the end he yielded. From the beginning, the aim of this dialogue was to achieve what in fact happened: to prove to public opinion in Algeria and abroad that there cannot be a dialogue with us. The failure of the dialogue is a great success for the eradicators. That was their goal.

[Garcon] But FIS Vice President Ali Benhadj did indeed write two letters calling for an intensification of the armed struggle.

[Kebir] Those two letters are an excuse. Why does the government talk so much about them, but not about a third, more recent letter in which Ali Benhadj explained to the leaders of the Mujahidin (fighters—LIBERATION editor's note) that Islam does not prohibit negotiation and in which he condemns operations that do not conform with Islam? If, in the government's opinion, the two letters justified breaking off the dialogue, then why have Zeroual's emissaries met with Abassi Madani and Ali Benhadj on two occasions—after discovering them—without breathing a word of that?

[Garcon] Still, these letters were written at a time when the FIS leadership had announced its desire to negotiate.

[Kebir] No truce had been declared as far as I know—especially not by the regime which, during this period, intensified its repression more than ever. So, why would anyone expect Benhadj to do anything different from Zeroual and the government?

[Garcon] The Algerian authorities reproach you for not having done anything to reduce the violence.

[Kebir] People are apparently forgetting that the FIS leadership has said repeatedly that it could not envision a truce without first consulting all the FIS political and military officials. That was the only way to declare a truce that could be maintained. The regime wanted to force them to do it before they could consult the FIS officials. They refused because it was a maneuver to cut them off from the armed sphere and to demonstrate afterwards that they do not represent anything. A unilateral truce would be a surrender, not a truce. If a negotiated solution is to have any chance, it must be fair.

[Garcon] Do you think that the dialogue is dead?

[Kebir] There is still the possibility of a negotiated solution, if the conditions are met: We must be able to meet with our officials before making any decision. We will never accept negotiations under pressure, in other words, we cannot ask our leadership to negotiate as long as it is not free. In any case, we have not closed the door to an effective dialogue for a peaceful settlement of the crisis.

[Garcon] The authorities have announced an antiterrorist crackdown. What will happen in the coming weeks?

[Kebir] The repression will increase and that is likely to cause even bigger massacres than those today. The people will get used to the war and adapt to this new situation. The regime will not be able to eradicate the Islamic movement. It can kill thousands of people, but, sooner or later it will have to return to the negotiations. Despite the repression and the reprisals against civilians, time is not on its side.

[Garcon] Can you win militarily?

[Kebir] Nobody can win in the short term. The long term is a different story, but it will take a lot of sacrifices.

[Garcon] Do you think the Army will collapse if the armed struggled intensifies?

[Kebir] I hope not because that would open the way to civil war, which must be avoided at all costs.

[Garcon] The AIS [Islamic Salvation Army] (the FIS' armed wing—LIBERATION editor's note) has condemned the killing of foreigners. Do you think that foreigners should leave the country?

[Kebir] We have not changed our position on this point: We are still against such attacks and we condemn them. However, I would raise the following question: What interest does a foreigner have in staying in Algeria?

[Garcon] Does that mean that the presence of foreigners strengthens the government?

[Kebir] That depends on what the foreigner does in Algeria. Is it someone who has always been there, or is it someone whose work is in the interest of the government?

[Garcon] The opposition is asking the FIS to commit itself to a minimum democratic contract before having a dialogue with it. Are you prepared to do that?

[Kebir] We have to know what this minimum is. In any case, however, we have already said—and I will repeat it—that we agree to have the people choose their future. The people are sovereign.

[Garcon] The head of state has announced presidential elections. Will you take part if they are held?

[Kebir] They will not take place without serious negotiation with those who represent the Algerian people.

GIA, 'Salvation Army' Review Strategy

MM1411152894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algiers, London, AL-HAYAH—AL-HAYAH learned in Algiers yesterday that a meeting is currently being held in a province in west Algeria between the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] and the Islamic Salvation Army. Participants in the meeting, which is guarded by about 1,000 members of the groups, are discussing "a strategy" for the next stage, now that the dialogue has failed. The meeting coincides with reports that ships have unloaded advanced weapons for the Algerian security services. The Islamic Salvation Front said in a statement issued by the Executive Committee, headed by Cheikh Rabah Kebir, that the weapons received by Algeria include "internationally banned bombs." [passage omitted]

With regard to the meeting of the Salvation Army and the Armed Group, well-informed Algerian sources have told AL-HAYAH that the participants' agenda includes discussing "a new strategy" in order to confront the combing operations launched by the Army command and finding a means to "paralyze the regime" and "expose it to public opinion."

The sources added that there are two views among the participants regarding how to confront the regime:

1. A view calling for blowing up oil and gasfields, because they represent the main source of the revenues that reach the regime. Such operations could also provoke Western public opinion and influence the positions of the oil companies operating in Algeria.

2. A view calling for carrying out operations that would convince the people that the authorities are no longer capable of protecting citizens. These operations would include blowing up some official institutions.

The sources do not rule out that gunmen might carry out these kinds of operations despite the dangers and the potential results. The sources expect a serious security escalation to occur in the coming weeks.

The meeting coincides with reports that two weeks ago three ships unloaded weapons and military hardware worth $1.1 billion. Some sources said that the sources of these weapons are France, Poland, the United States, Germany, and an Arab state. The sources said that the unloading occurred over three days in the capital's port under tight security. The weapons include spare parts for night-flying helicopters, floodlights, advanced electronic devices, and mine- and explosive-sweeping vehicles. Algerian military sources have been quoted as saying that security forces have prepared a plan to "eradicate terrorism" before March 1995 so as to enable the authorities to enter into dialogue from a position of strength. [passage omitted]

FIS Says Islamic Government Inevitable

NC1511112994 Paris AFP in English 1044 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Nov 15 (AFP)—The emergence of an Islamic government in Algeria is "only a matter of time," a senior member of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) said in an interview published here Tuesday [15 November].

Anwar Hadam, head of the FIS parliamentary delegation abroad, told the Lebanese newspaper AL-NAHAR in Washington that if an Islamic state were not achieved through dialogue it would be obtained through "jihad" (holy war).

"We had hoped that this could be peaceful but they forced the jihad on us and they are destroying our institutions," Hadam said.

He said Western countries, namely France, were responsible for this situation.

"The jihad for us is a means not a goal," Hadam said.

But Hadam said the FIS was still committed to finding a peaceful solution with the government through negotiations provided FIS leaders inside and outside Algeria were allowed to meet to map out a unified position.

Such a meeting would mean official recognition of the FIS, he said.

Hadam denounced the current government in Algiers as "illegitimate", and charged that 1,000 civilians had been killed since the beginning of November by the authorities.

He called on the army to return to barracks and blamed the government for the situation in Algeria.

Hadam also expressed opposition to plans by Algerian President Liamine Zeroual to hold presidential elections next year saying: "We consider the current government unconstitutional and any decision it takes is unconstitutional."

FIS' Belhadj Reiterates Support for 'Jihad'

MM1411143894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Belhadj: Zeroual Has No Powers"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] London—Cheikh Ali Belhadj, the number two in the [Algerian] Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], has reiterated his wish to seek a "legitimate solution" to the crisis in Algeria. In a message addressed to President Liamine Zeroual on Tuesday [8 November], a copy of which AL-HAYAH has received, he stressed that the FIS is not responsible for the dialogue's failure. He also renewed his offer to resolve the crisis by referring to religious law or through a live television debate, urging Zeroual to resign if he rejects both proposals.

Although the message is new evidence of the resumption of contacts between the FIS and the authorities, it is clear that it contains nothing to inspire optimism. Belhadj reiterated his adherence to the "jihad" and the two messages he sent to the armed Islamic groups. Zeroual attributed his decision to suspend the dialogue to Belhadj's position in the two messages. [passage omitted]

Belhadj added that Zeroual is leading a "dictatorial authority," and that he and his government are controlled by "the real hidden authority run by the generals." He said that Zeroual's speech to the people "was written for you, and you read it under compulsion, just like (President) Chadli Bendjedid submitted his resignation under compulsion."

He rejected Zeroual's laying the blame on the FIS for the dialogue's failure. He said that "imprisonment is a form of coercion, and no coerced person can be held responsible," and FIS leaders are not responsible, because they are imprisoned. [passage omitted]

He reiterated his support for the "jihad" against the Algerian regime. He spoke about the messages he sent to the armed groups, to which Zeroual attributed the suspension and failure of the dialogue. He said: "Yes, I wrote more than 10 messages to the brother mujahidin, including the two messages in question. They fall within the framework of the aim of achieving what was mentioned in the message dated 6 September 1994, and they contained religious advice." He went on: "I was asked to write a message to calm the situation. So I openly said that it is not a Muslim preacher's job to put the peoples to sleep, but, rather, to wake the peoples to defend their religious and political rights and public freedoms within the framework of Islamic principles."

On Zeroual's call for presidential elections, Belhadj said that television has already launched "a presidential election campaign" in favor of the head of state. He asked whether Zeroual is going to run or supervise these elections. He said that the aim of these elections could be "to replace one legitimacy with another in order to continue to crush the first legitimacy in the name of the second legitimacy, hence we engage in a process like the transmigration of souls among Indians."

He concluded his message by urging Zeroual to choose one of three proposals:

"1. To refer to religious law to resolve the current dispute. In this connection I propose referring the dispute to a 'committee of senior ulema from the Islamic world' in order to issue its verdict, provided its discussions are televised.

"2. To hold a television debate involving FIS leaders and Generals Zeroual, Taib Dradji, and Mohamed Bachin.

"3. To resign if you fail to accept the two preceding conditions."

Security Seizes Arms Caches, Kills 'Terrorist'

LD1411191894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Today a statement by the security services said a search operation carried out by the security services yesterday at Ansar municipality in Jijel Province was crowned by the discovery of two arms caches, where a MATT 49 sub-machine gun, three automatic pistols—two of which were homemade—a hunting rifle, and ammunition were recovered. During this operation, two cars also were found. The day before yesterday the security forces succeeded in eliminating a terrorist and recovering a hunting rifle during a search operation in Ain Defla Province.

Egypt

Musa Comments on AMU Membership, Iraq

NC1411224294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo from Paris today following a one-day visit to France during which he held talks with Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya.

Musa had arrived in Paris from Algiers where he chaired the Egyptian delegation to the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] foreign ministers meeting.

On his arrival in Cairo his excellency explained that Egypt's participation in the AMU meeting was designed to further diplomatic interaction between it and the Arab Maghreb and to promote solidarity between the Arab East and the Arab Maghreb.

On Egypt possibly joining the AMU, Musa said this issue will be submitted to the next AMU summit for a decision.

The foreign minister added that Egypt attended the Algiers meeting on the strength of an invitation it received and to emphasize the mutual Egyptian-AMU interest in a new relationship. He denied that one of the AMU member states opposes Egypt's membership in the union, declaring that the invitation to attend the meeting was extended to Egypt with the approval of all AMU members.

He said he is certain that there is a consensus over the importance of Egypt attending AMU meetings and forging a relationship between the two sides, noting that the aim of this activity is to promote inter-Arab cooperation.

Musa said he met today with the Mauritanian president, delivered a message to him from President Husni Mubarak, and brought back a reply which he will convey to President Mubarak. He said that during the meeting, they discussed Egypt's likely entry into the AMU as a new member.

On another issue, the foreign minister said that the postponement of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region by a few days will not affect the peace process.

Musa described Iraq's handing over to the United Nations of a document recognizing Kuwait as a positive and important step, noting that Egypt was the first country to urge such recognition.

He added that Iraq must abide by the UN resolutions pertaining to Kuwait.

Commenting on his visit to Algeria, he said that he met with President Liamine Zeroual, the prime minister, and other senior officials and discussed with them ways of boosting ties between Egypt and Algeria.

'Amr Musa noted that he will submit a comprehensive report to President Husni Mubarak on the results of the AMU foreign ministers meeting and the talks that his excellency held in Algiers and Paris.

Al-Baz on Security With Israel, Mideast Market

NC1011150094 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Nov 94 p 10

[Report by Ni'mat 'Isawi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has declared that Egypt will not engage in security cooperation with Israel and that no long-term regional security cooperation will be established unless the Middle East is freed of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons to avoid a strategic imbalance in the region.

Dr. al-Baz was speaking at a seminar organized by AL-AHRAM entitled "For an Arab Cultural Project." The seminar's secretary general, Mahmud Murad, sent a cable to prominent author Najib Mahfuz in response to a message to the seminar at its opening session. The seminar denounced incidents of terrorism and violence in the Arab nation.

Dr. al-Baz remarked that the Middle East market is not an inevitable or unavoidable fate, adding that nobody should fix this in our minds. We are entitled to reject and amend these ideas and suggest alternatives, he stressed. He expressed his surprise at people taking the Middle East market as a rigid concept, supporting or opposing it, and at the battle raging between the two sides. Assuming rigid stances is partly due to our shaken self-confidence, he remarked, adding that better results could have been achieved had more attention paid to prospective studies. Regrettably, the Arabs paid no attention to these things, he said, noting that an attempt was made by four Arab states a few years ago, although the aspect was not considered sufficiently.

At his meeting with seminar members the night before last, Dr. al-Baz pointed out that the significance of the Middle East market is enhanced by a worldwide drive to set up groupings. Some believe it is not right for Arabs to stay away from such a drive, he said.

Speaking about the Israeli stance on the issue, al-Baz said: The other side has the right to benefits. As Arabs, we are entitled to protect our interests and proceed in the direction that involves benefits for us.

He stressed that developments during and since the Casablanca summit cannot constitute even the early signs or nucleus of a Middle East market. All that happened was that multinational corporations entered the arena, he said.

Muslim Brotherhood Condemns Partition of Mosque

NC1411163494 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Nov 94 p 1

[Statement released by the Muslim Brotherhood on the partition of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israelites, the enemies of God and Muslims, have taken yet another of their well-planned steps to obliterate Islam from the land of Palestine by taking control of the largest part of the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron and using oppresion and force to give it to their Jewish brethren, leaving only a small part of the mosque for Muslims to pray in. Thus, the Muslims have become aliens in their own homes and slaves in their homeland, while the oppressive enemy now tampers with their holy places and disdains their dignity and religion.

The al-Ibrahimi Mosque is not a trust held only by the Muslims of Palestine nor is it just a Palestinian landmark. It is a general holy Islamic trust for all Muslims throughout the world. The Muslims will be called to account before God on the Judgment Day; "The day whereon neither wealth nor sons will avail, but only he who brings to God a sound heart." [Koranic verse] A day when flimsy pretexts and feeble arguments will be unacceptable; a day when defeatism, submissiveness, and acts of weak faith, humiliation, love of life, and hatred of God's words will be condemned. "At length, when they reach the (fire), their hearing, their sight, and their skins will bear witness against them, as to (all) their deeds." [Koranic verse]

O Muslims everywhere: Rise as one, faithful man and struggle with all your resources to regain all rights that have been usurped. Say aloud that you will be firm in adhering to the right, that you are proceeding on the path of Islam and faith, and that lives and wealth are cheap for the sake of upholding God's word. Say we will not weaken or be complacent no matter how long the struggle and how hard the difficulties. "And for those who fear God, He (ever) prepares a way out, and He provides for him from (sources) he never could imagine. And if any one puts his trust in God, sufficient is (God) for him." [Koranic verse] God is sufficient for us. Praise be to God. May God have mercy on prophet Muhammad and his scions.

Writer Says Bus Bombing 'Legitimate Resistance'

NC1011191094 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 8 Nov 94 p 12

["A Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Opposition does not mean terrorism. You may be an extremist in the opposition and yet the government should not treat you like a terrorist. And resistance of occupation is not terrorism; it is a legitimate right that should be enjoyed by a people whose land is under occupation.

But the use of arms can never be a kind of opposition, because bullets are bound to revoke dialogue. Bullets do terrorize the people, society, and government. Countries do not declare a state of emergency for 13 years to confront this kind of terrorism. Other countries want to learn the demands of the youth. We should not stop trying to look into these demands.

Opposition should not be described as terrorism, because it uses only the word as its weapon. A word should be confronted by a word; it should not be confronted by police action, especially as the opposition has been peaceful. The opposition is not pursuing the same method as [Mubarak's] National Democratic Party. The opposition's sole demand is reform and any step against the opposition is a step against democracy and an act of terrorism by the government, especially as the government is allowing its supporters to say anything they like, and even to attack the symbols of al-Azhar, the Church, and parties. The whole process is directed against society's traditions and norms. It is inadmissible to accuse anyone opposing the school uniform or the importers of bad food of being terrorists. No doubt all the government's measures should be debated. The opposition papers should enjoy the same rights as the government papers, especially as the government media exceed logic and rationalism.

We should not accuse the opposition in Palestine of being terrorist. It is a resistance of the occupation. Israel has hired Yasir 'Arafat to strike at the intifadah. But the intifadah will never be silenced while the occupation continues. Resisting the occupation is a legitimate action according to all international laws and heavenly norms. How can opposition by some Israeli sects be legitimate, while opposition by the Palestinian people is forbidden? Why should we keep silent over the al-Ibrahim Mosque massacre and be angry at the bombing of the Israeli bus, although the first incident was a crime and the second, legitimate resistance and sacrifice?

'Unknown' Persons Kill Man, Wound Another

NC1311223394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 13 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Nov (MENA)—A citizen was killed and another received various wounds this evening when unknown persons fired at them in the 'Izbat Rustum area in Idfa Village of Markaz Mallawi, al-Minya Governorate, Upper Egypt.

A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry said that unidentified persons fired at citizen Sami Kamal Najib and his brother, Usamah, in their grocery shop in 'Izbat Rustum, killing the former and wounding the latter, who was immediately taken to the hospital for treatment.

Al-Minya Security Directorate officials went to the scene of the incident, and various agencies are searching for the culprits. The Prosecution Office was informed and has began to investigate.

Two Killed, Others Wounded in Separate Incidents

NC1211080294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 11 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—A conscript was killed and another was wounded in an exchange of fire with unidentified persons on the al-'Usayrat road in Farshut urban center in Qina. The perpetrators got away.

This was stated by an official source at the Interior Ministry. He said that a force staging an ambush on the road suspected two cyclers. As they tried to stop them for identification, they escaped in the direction of the plantations.

Members of the force chased them, but they opened fire, killing conscript 'Abd-al-Badi' Ahmad Hasan and wounding Rikabi Ahmad Madani, who was immediately taken to hospital. The suspects got away.

The plantations area was immediately surrounded. An automatic rifle, two rounds of ammunition, and the bicycles the two suspects used were found.

Leading cadres in the Qina Security Directorate and the various detective agencies moved to the scene of the incident. The region is being searched.

In another development, a security source in the Ministry of Interior has stated that unidentified persons opened fire this evening on citizen Mahmud 'Abd-al-Rahim, a teacher and shop owner, in front of his shop in the al-Muharraf village [words indistinct].

The perpetrators opened fire to cover their getaway, wounding citizen Nadi Najib Shinudah, 43 years, an agricultural adviser in the al-Muharraf agricultural extension center, and citizen Sha'ban Rashid Mustafa, who was taken to hospital for treatment.

Leaders in the al-Minya Security Directorate and detective agencies moved to the scene of the incident and the [words indistinct] are conducting a search to uncover the circumstances of the incident and find the perpetrators.

Three 'Terrorist Elements' Killed in Aswan

NC1011150294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Three terrorist elements were killed today in the area of Markaz Nasr, near the al-Nubah desert in Aswan Governorate.

This was stated by an official Interior Ministry source, who said the three terrorists included Maysarah Abu-al-Wafa, accused of most murders and terrorist operations in the Governorates of Qina and Aswan, and 'Ammar Shawqi Bakr, who is accused in connection with several terrorist cases in Aswan Governorate.

The third terrorist is yet to be identified.

Columnist Views Results of U.S. Elections

NC1411204494 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 11 Nov 94 p 3

["Words" column by Mahmud 'Abd-al-Mun'im Murad]

[FBIS Translated Text] What happened to U.S. President Bill Clinton? His Democratic Party has suffered an unprecedented defeat in the mid-term elections of the House of Representatives and the Senate and in the state governors elections. Democracy is an established fact in the United States, but the U.S. Government's dealings with the outside world is another matter. In its dealings with other countries, it is quite possible for the U.S. Government to do what runs counter to democracy, international law, and human rights if that is in its interests. However, inside the United States democracy, with its current meaning and manifestations, is respected and valid even if this means that an elected U.S. President and his party on whose principles he ran for election may together lose the majority in the House of Representatives and the Senate and in the election of governors.

There is faint hope that these results might lead to the President's fall from power or to a change in U.S. foreign policy, particularly regarding our region and the continuing efforts to complete the peace process. However, inside the United States this defeat may lead to a change in certain policies and an amendment of certain laws. President Clinton feels embarrassed by this. One of the positive things that draws attention in the U.S. democracy is that when President Clinton received news of the regrettable results of the elections, he did not deny his responsibility for them. He held a news conference at the White House and declared that he bears his share of the responsibility for the defeat that beset his party in the recent elections in which the Republicans scored historic victories and secured a majority in the Senate for the first time in eight years, in the House of Representatives in 40 years, and among the governors of the states for 18 years.

As Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said, these important changes will not affect U.S. foreign policy, which does not primarily concern U.S. voters. U.S. policy is firm and is charted by institutions, forces, experts, and interests that do not change with different parties. However, we maintain that the projects and laws that Clinton enacted regarding domestic affairs that primarily concern U.S. citizens will be reconsidered, which greatly embarrasses President Clinton.

This is not the first time that a president has belonged to one party when the other party had a majority in Congress, be it in the United States, France, or any other country. True, in the Third World we consider that when a leader belongs to a party and another party has a majority in the parliament, it is a disturbing thing. However, in the deeply rooted Western democracies, the people find nothing embarrassing in this. Perhaps it is a good thing because it forces a president and the rival strong party to pursue a national policy that enjoys the approval of both parties, though it might sometimes hinder political action and delay decisionmaking. At any rate, this situation means that laws enacted under such circumstances would be approved by a large consensus. Anyway, what is happening there cannot be compared to what is happening in our region.

British Official Arrives for Talks on Cooperation

NC1411064694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 13 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Nov (MENA)—Tim Eggar, British minister of industry and energy [name and title as received], accompanied by a technical delegation, arrived in Cairo this evening for a three-day official visit to Egypt.

He is scheduled to hold talks with Minister of Electricity and Energy Mahir Abazah on future cooperation between the two countries and participation in several projects of electricity generation, conveyance and distribution stipulated in the ministry's five-year plan. He will also meet Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi to discuss cooperation in the oil industry, especially the participation in oil and natural gas drilling operations.

Total Japanese Grant Reaches $781.5 Million

NC1011161594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 10 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Egypt and Japan today signed and exchanged letters according to which Japan will extend a grant of 1.018 billion yen, around $10.5 million.

The letters were cosigned by Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation, and Japanese Ambassador Kunio Watakura [name and title as received].

The grant will be used to rehabilitate and modernize the potable water plant in al-Amiriyah and to increase its production to 300,000 cubic meters per day. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Katakura stated that this grant takes the total of Japanese grant to Egypt to $781.5 million. By financing this project, Japan is confirming its role in projects that involve the daily life of the Egyptian citizen and that seek to improve the living and health condition of water consumers.

The ambassador extended his government's condolences over the losses caused by recent floods. He said his government has decided to contribute $40,000 to flood victims in Upper Egypt.

Debt Settlement Agreement Signed With Russia

NC1011165394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Egypt and the Russian Federation today signed an agreement on the settlement of mutual debts. The agreement was signed on the Egyptian side by Economy Minister Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud and on the Russian side by Oleg Davydov, minister for foreign economic relations.

The economy minister later stated that the agreement settles all civilian and military debts. He added that negotiations on the settlement took three years and culminated in an arrangement acceptable to both the Egyptian and Russian sides.

The agreement provides for the settlement of outstanding debts between Egypt and Russia without any of the parties having to pay for the other as a result. The total debts amount to 900 million Egyptian pounds. The ledger entries of these debts will be settled by the year 2010.

The agreement resolves all outstanding financial issues between the two countries and opens a new chapter in economic cooperation and trade exchange. [passage omitted]

At a joint news conference following the signing of the agreement, Oleg Davydov said the Russian prime minister will visit Egypt in the coming stage as part of a regional tour to emphasize the importance of consolidating bilateral relations in every field, particularly as Egypt is the biggest country in the region and has influence, not only in the region, but in the world.

Davydov commended the Egyptian success in economic reform, pointing out that Russia is heading toward a free economy and is interested in learning about and benefiting from the Egyptian experience.

He stressed the importance of the joint trade committee meeting that will discuss ways to encourage trade exchange and joint ventures in light of the potential of the Egyptian and Russian markets.

He added that it has been agreed to set up a joint venture in the insurance field to help exporters and importers and small and medium-size export companies in both countries.

The Russian minister stated that he discussed with Egyptian officials the idea of setting up an Egyptian-Russian bank to serve the export process in both countries and stressed that Egyptian banks must be represented in Russia along with Western banks.

He pointed out that bilateral trade exchange can be increased to $1 billion through joint ventures, the application of Russian technology, and the utilization of Egyptian expertise.

The two sides discussed prospects for mutual investments to serve bilateral trade as well as the signing of a series of agreements to encourage investment and preclude dual taxation.

They also reviewed the scope of economic cooperation and trade exchange and agreed on the need to upgrade relations to a level that is consistent with the two countries' capabilities. They also discussed joint ventures in the fields of banking, insurance, foreign trade, and marketing.

Economic Cooperation Agreements Signed With Comoros

NC1311212094 Cairo MENA in English 1940 GMT 13 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 13 (MENA)—Egypt and Comoros today signed two agreements on the promotion of economic cooperation and encouragement of investments.

The two agreements were signed by state minister for international cooperation Dr. Yusuf Butrus-Ghali and visiting minister of foreign affairs and cooperation of Comoros Said Mohamed Sagaf.

The economic cooperation agreement stipulates the setting up of a joint committee for economic cooperation.

Comoran Ambassador to Cairo Relieved

NC1411185694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1447 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources stated today that Ibrahim 'Abdallah Ibrahim, former Comoran ambassador to Egypt, has not asked for political asylum. They noted that the Comoran Government notified Egypt that it should deal with Comoran charge d'affairs in Cairo Sa'id Hasan Salih. It should be recalled that the Comoran Government relieved ambassador Ibrahim 'Abadllah Ibrahim two months ago for special reasons. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Rejects IMF Call To Devalue Pound

NC1411185994 Paris AFP in English 1353 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 14 (AFP)—Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi categorically rejected a demand from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to devalue the Egyptian pound, in a statement to the government newspaper AL-AHRAM.

"Since the economic reform program has been successful and the exchange rate has stabilised, the government does not plan to devalue the pound. We definitely will not do that, we do not need that," Sidqi told AL-AHRAM Monday [14 November].

Western experts said the IMF had proposed an immediate 20 to 25 percent devaluation of the pound, or a progressive devaluation over 12 to 18 months, to boost exports.

Sidqi said talks on the economic reforms would be held here with an IMF delegation at the end of November.

Egypt and the IMF resumed contacts here last week during a visit by IMF deputy general director Stanley Fisher.

Discussions had been deadlocked since IMF director general Michel Camdessus visited Cairo on the sidelines of the UN world population conference.

The IMF disagrees with Egypt's implementation of the final stages of an economic reform agreement signed in 1991, and prevented the Paris Club of creditor nations from writing off four billion dollars of Egypt's debts in July.

The IMF has also criticised Egypt for delaying the privatisation of its public sector.

Newspapers Plan Daily Editions

NC1511083794 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Nov 94 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-SHA'B, mouthpiece of the Labor Party, AL-AHALI, mouthpiece of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party [NPUG], and the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party's AL-'ARABI have completed the technical groundwork necessary to publish as dailies during the next election campaign in 1995.

The prevailing tendency within AL-'ARABI circles is to let the editorial staff issuing the current weekly edition issue the daily one. But some of the party's leaders oppose this move and accuse AL-'ARABI's weekly edition of lacking a political identity. AL-'ARABI announced, with its very first issue, that it intends to publish daily under the direction of Nasirist journalist 'Abdallah Imam.

GCC Defense Ministers Arrive in Riyadh for Meeting

LD1211133894 Riyadh SPA in English 1258 GMT 12 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 12, SPA—Defence ministers of member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] arrived here today to participate in their 13th meeting.

Those who arrived included Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir, the Kuwaiti defence minister, Khalifa Bin-Ahmad al Khalifa, the Bahraini defence minister, Hamad Bin-'Abdallah al-Thani, the Qatari minister of state for defence affairs, Muhammed Bin-Rashid al-Maktum, the minister of defence in the United Arab Emirates, and Fahar Bin-Taymur al-Sa'id, the Omani deputy premier for security and defence affairs.

They were welcomed at Riyadh Air Base by Prince Fahd Bin-'Abdallah-Bin Muhammed, assistant defence and aviation minister for aviation affairs, Fahim al-Qasimi, the GCC secretary general, and a number of senior officials.

GCC Shura Councils, Parliaments Meet in Kuwait

LD1111090494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0801 GMT 11 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 11 Nov—Delegations of Shura councils, national parliaments, and assemblies of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] will hold the Gulf loyalty meeting in Kuwait 13-17 November. The meeting is aimed at supporting cooperation and strengthening ties of accord among the GCC members. [passage omitted]

Saudi Representative Addresses Meeting

LD1411153394 Riyadh SPA in English 1251 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait, Nov 14, SPA—Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Jubayr, the chairman of the Consultative Council, highlighted the brave stand of the GCC leaders vis-a-vis the vicious aggression launched on Kuwait four years ago. Addressing the first meeting for the consultative and national councils in the GCC member states here last night Bin-Jubayr said the GCC member states had mobilized their potentialities to confront the aggression launched on Kuwait.

Iraq should implement all resolutions pertaining to its aggression on Kuwait so as to prove its peaceful intentions towards Kuwait and the neighbouring countries, he said. Bin-Jubayr drew attention to the challenges that face the Gulf region and warned against the endeavours to instigate sedition. He pointed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as a founder of the Gulf Cooperation Council, is keen on boosting the council. The Gulf cooperation has not come from void, but it has come in line with the existing religious, historical and geographical ties, he said.

Bin-Jubayr said the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been following the path of Islam, and added that 'Islam avocates for consultation'. He noted that the kingdom since a long time knew the system of the Consultative Council.

'Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, announcing the systems of the basic rule, regions and consultative council, said the kingdom had never known the so called 'constitutional vacuum', Bin-Jubayr said. The kingdom's constitution is based on the Holy Koran and Sunnah (the prophet's teachings), he added.

Bin-Jubayr said adherence to the Islamic shari'ah does not mean that doors are closed before accepting achievements of modern civilization as long as they do not contradict with our the Islamic beliefs. Bin-Jubayr said the new system of the Consultative Council in the kingdom is actually modernization and development to already existing systems. He noted that King Fahd has appointed qualified members for the consultative council. These members are capable of contributing to development of the kingdom, he said.

Kuwait

Official To Ask U.S., UK To Pressure Iraq on POW's

LD1411175494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1602 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 14 Nov—A senior Kuwaiti official tomorrow will begin a tour that will take him to London, Washington, and New York. He is to stress the utmost importance of redoubling pressure on the Iraqi regime on a humanitarian basis to hasten a decision regarding the tragedy of Kuwaiti POW's.

Sources of the National Committee for the Affairs of POW's and the Missing today said the committee's chairman, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, will hold talks with senior government and parliamentary officials in Britain and the United States with a view to setting in motion moves to make Iraq release 625 Kuwaiti detainees and nationals of other countries in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 686 and 687.

The sources told the Kuwaiti News Agency [KUNA] that for the same purpose Shaykh Salim will also meet UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali in New York and the U.S. representative at the United Nations and this month's chair of the Security Council, Madeleine Albright, and permanent and other members of the Security Council. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on UN Presence, Iraqi Recognition

LD1411204194 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1807 GMT 14 Nov 94

[Quotation marks as received]

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 14 Nov—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, said that despite the importance of Iraqi recognition of the State of Kuwait, there were other important issues, such as Iraq's responsibility for the fate of 625 Kuwaiti detainees and captives.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, who arrived here yesterday, said that as far as the Kuwaiti people were concerned "this issue is considered very important... and we hope they are alive and we have [passage indistinct]

In reply to a question on the reason for his visit to the United Nations at this time, Shaykh Sabah said: Due to the importance of the issue, my government decided that I attend the closed meeting to be held today, so I could express my views to the president of the Security Council and, at the same time, we would exchange views on other Security Council resolutions that we, and all the others, hope to be fully implemented so peace and security prevail in the Gulf region."

He added: "The Iraqi recognition is not new and, since 1963, we have exchanged ambassadors and have had embassies representing each of the two countries in the other's."

Shaykh Sabah considered the recognition a first step to implement other Security Council resolutions, stressing that the issue of POWs was of more importance to Kuwait and pointing out to confirmed information that there were POWs who are still alive.

In this regard, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad pointed out to the several meetings that were held in Geneva on the issue of POWs and to the fact that Iraq has submitted a number of files regarding POWs, the existence of whom was admitted. Shaykh Sabah said: That proves that they exist.

In response to a question suggesting that his attending the UN Security Council's meeting was aimed at stopping any move towards lifting the sanctions on Iraq, Shaykh Sabah said: We have nothing to do with lifting the sanctions... You give us a larger volume than ours... I am unable to do such a thing... But I can demand the implementation of the UN Security Council's resolutions.

In reply to a question in connection with the demarcation carried out by the United Nations of the borders between Iraq and Kuwait, he said: There is nothing new in that regard... I even say it here frankly, about 600 meters have been taken from those borders and given to Iraq and we accepted that because the resolution is binding on both Kuwait and Iraq.

In reply to a question on Kuwait's stance if an Arab side was to intervene trying to reconcile Iraq with Kuwait, Shaykh Sabah wondered: What is the Arab connection to this issue? These are international resolutions and not Arab ones... That is why the issue is international and not an Arab one.

He added: When all UN Security Council's resolutions are implemented, there will be no need for an Arab reconciliation.

When asked about Kuwait's stance regarding the assumption that Tariq 'Aziz [Iraqi deputy prime minister] had a mandate to solve all the problems Shaykh Sabah said: [Passage indistinct]

French Interior Minister Pasqua Arrives on Visit

LD1111175094 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1720 GMT 11 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 11 Nov (SPA)—Charles Pasqua, the French minister of interior and territorial management arrived in Riyadh today on a three-day official visit at the invitation of His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the minister of interior. [passage omitted]

Interior Ministers Comment

LD1111200694 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1727 GMT 11 Nov 94

[Quotation marks as received]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Charles Pasqua, the French minister of interior and territorial management arrived in Riyadh today. [passage omitted]

The French interior made the following statement:

"This is the second time as interior minister that I have visited the Kingdom since 1987, and I am happy to return again because I have made many friends, and more than friendships, here. I have close ties with His Highness Prince Nayif, whom I met before the French Government was formed in 1993. I visited him in the Western Sahara some months ago.

I have come here in appreciation for the kingdom's role in the region and its importance. I also have great respect and special regard for the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud. I hope to speak with Prince Nayif about Islam.

As you know, we have an important number of Muslims in France and we would like them to carry out their religious rites freely and quietly, but we do not want some people to exploit religion for political ends, thus causing instability. It is not only because of that, but because of the important ties which bind us with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I think it is necessary to listen to what Prince Nayif and other Saudi leaders have to say about the development of the situation in this sphere, and it is also important that they listen to our views on the subject. That is what friends do when they meet."

His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the interior minister also made a statement:

"I would first like to welcome Mr. Charles Pasqua, the minister of interior and territorial management in friendly France. I and all my colleagues at the Interior Ministry are happy with his excellency's visit, despite the many concerns which I know he has at this particular time.

I hope this visit will be useflul and we will listen to what Mr. Pasqua has to say. We will speak to him as a friend would do to another. We also thank Mr. Pasqua for his kind understanding of the true Islam and his interest in Islam. The proof is his inauguration of King Fahd Mosque in France a short time ago.

I am confident that this visit will result in useful cooperation with the kingdom. I appreciate the interest Mr. Pasqua and the French Government have shown in developing and training our security services, including the border guards.

Pasqua Praises Security Forces

LD1211152794 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1355 GMT 12 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 12 Nov (SPA)—His Excellency Charles Pasqua, minister of state and minister of interior and territorial organization of the French Republic, expressed his amazement at what he saw today during his visit to the special security services with regard to the means and quality of training in a presentation by the special security forces. This shows that they are receiving good training.

In a statement to SPA, Pasqua praised the high technical standard and skills shown by the special forces.

He said: This is the second time I have visited this place. He also expressed his thanks to the commander of the special security forces and to all the staff.

In reply to a question on the extent of correlation between the training and the requirements of modern security systems with regard to equipment and the tactics used, he said: Regarding equipment, I do not believe that you want anything more than that, as the special security forces have the best equipment available. There is no doubt that we are progressing every day, and men must be able to move with progress.

On the most important aspects of French-Saudi cooperation in security fields, the French minister said: Cooperation between Saudi Arabia and France is very old, and we have done a lot of things together, including training—or the training sessions that your men had in France from our experts regarding the removal of mines. He added: We have continuous elements of cooperation with the Interior Ministry in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I will have the opportunity to hold talks with His Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz so as to be able to decide together regarding what more we can say or do.

Interior Ministers' News Conference

LD1211215994 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Nov 94

[Report on news conference by Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua with unidentified correspondents in Riyadh on 12 November]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua held a news conference today at the office of the interior minister.

[Begin recording] [Nayif] As I said earlier today, we are happy with the visit of Mr. Pasqua to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This visit is not only a visit of a friend to a friendly country; although we welcome it, actually it is a working visit. Security cooperation, particularly development of our Border Guards throygh the French Interior Ministry and under the personal supervision of Mr. Pasqua will be one result.

I regard our meeting today as a fruitful one. We have reviewed all aspects of cooperation between the two ministries. God willing, we will endeavor to expand or broaden the security cooperation agreement between the two sides so that it covers other security fields.

[Correspondent] Your Highness, today you signed a framework agreement on joint cooperation. Is it possible to give us some information about this agreement?

[Nayif] Actually, we did not sign a cooperation agreement. It is a memorandum of understanding between Mr. Pasqua and myself on the development of the kingdom's Border Guards. The Saudi and French sides—the working teams—will very soon begin to discuss this matter and put it in its final form so that we can begin with it as soon as possible, God willing.

[Correspondent] Your Highness Prince Nayif. The French side played a major role in the development of Saudi security forces from French experience in combating narcotics. Do you envisage broadening the prospects of security cooperation with the French side in the near fulure?

[Nayif] Yes. This is what we raised at our meeting today. We were met with Mr. Pasqua's welcome and readiness to cooperate in this field. [end recording]

[Announcer] The French interior minister was then asked about his meeting with Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. His Excellency Charles Pasqua answered by saying: [passage omitted] We managed to activate the agreement signed in 1980 between Mr. Christian Bouvier and Prince Nayif. We also exchanged viewpoints on the aspects through which consolidating cooperation between the two countries can be realized.

His excellency noted that during the meeting a decision was made on strengthening cooperation in combating narcotics and combating organized crime and terrorism.

His excellency affirmed in this connection that his ministry had placed its technical experience in this field at the disposal of the kingdom's Interior Ministry if the kingdom requests it.

His excellency explained that also a decision was made on cooperation in the field of the exchange of information in all fields, and that a memorandum of understanding which is regarded as a basis for strengthening bilateral cooperation in other fields was also signed.

The French interior minister, when asked if Prince Nayif spoke about some countries financing specific groupings in France, affirmed that he did not possess the right to answer such a question. He went on to say that no country finances groups which pose any danger to his country.

He added, on the contrary, I conveyed to His Highness Prince Nayif and His Royal Highness Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz our concerns and desire to see an organized Islam in France and people adhering to its laws.

He called for the setting up of a religious center to train men preaching Islam to implement Islamic matters correctly, to stay away from bad conduct and not to guide youth toward the wrong path. [passage omitted]

Interior Ministers Meet

LD1211203994 Riyadh SPA in English 1935 GMT 12 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Riyadh, Nov 11, SPA—Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy premier and commander of the National Guard received at the Royal Court, Yamama Palace here this afternoon the French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua and the accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the minister of interior, Jamil al-Hajailan, the Saudi ambassador to France and Dr 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jammaz, the advisor of the minister of interior.

Earlier, the French minister of interior expressed admiration on the advanced training facilities he saw during a visit to the elite security units headquarters in Riyadh. He highlighted the skillful and spohisticated technical capabilities shown by the personnel of the group. He said the Saudi elite security units have now possessed adequate equipments and training facilities. He also expressed satisfaction on the level of the deep-rooted cooperation between the French and Saudi ministries of interior and affiliated bodies and said he will discuss with Prince Nayif ways to expand the horizons of this cooperation.

For his part, Major General Ghaith Bin ghazi al-Harbi, the commander of the elite security forces expressed delight on the occasion and highlighted the marvelous capabilities shown by the Saudi youth who join the force.

Meanwhile, Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Charles Pasqua held a meeting here today.

At the outset of the meeting, Prince Nayif, on behalf of the government of custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz welcomed Pasqua and the accompanying delegation and expressed hope that the meeting would come out with positive results that would serve the best interests of the two countries including the bilateral security cooperation.

He thanked the French minister for visiting the kingdom and expressed confidence that the visit will be a landmark in the security cooperation between France and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which will benefit from the French experience in development and training spheres.

Prince Nayif cited the great importance being attached on the bilateral cooperation and thanked the French minsiter for good feelings he expressed on Islam and Moslems and on the leading role undertaken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the Islamic world, its efforts to implement and reflect the nature and correct teachings of Islam.

For his part, Minister Pasqua thanked Prince Nayif and the Saudi officials for the good reception and accommodation and the friendship feelings expressed by the Saudi side towards France and its people.

He commended the deep-rooted and fraternal ties between the kingdom and France and between France and Arab and Islamic worlds in general and expressed hope that the old and close friendship ties linking between him and Prince Nayif would help in promoting the bilateral relations between the two countries in various fields.

Referring to the situation of the Moslem minority in France, the French minister highlighted the historical ties linking between France and the North African Islamic countries and he deplored those who exploit religious rites for political or subversive ends in France and other countries. He said Moslems could practise their religious rituals in France in freedom.

At the end of the meeting, Prince Nayif and Pasqua signed a memorandum of understanding for development of the borders corps of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Comments Following Meeting With Albright

JN1411185594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1817 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, United Nations 14 Nov (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today, Monday, handed Iraq's official recognition of the State of Kuwait to the UN Security Council president for this month, U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright.

This came in a statement Tariq 'Aziz made to journalists following a meeting with the UN Security Council president. He said that these documents include a message from Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, the National Assembly Declaration, the Revolution Command Council's decree, and a copy of the Iraqi Official Gazette in which the documents were published.

Tariq 'Aziz told journalists that his meeting with the UN Security Council president was short because he simply handed her the official documents on the recognition of the State of Kuwait and its borders, and asked her to distribute these documents to all the UN Security Council members.

He expressed hope that the UN Security Council would respond positively to this important Iraqi step. He said that Iraq wants the UN Security Council to honor its resolutions which include obligations to both Iraq and the UN Security Council. He said that the Council has imposed the sanctions for reasons which no longer exist, and therefore, the Council should adopt the sound stand toward lifting the economic sanctions first, and then the other sanctions.

He said that the UN Security Council should do this in accordance with the legal interpretation of its resolutions, and that it has not done this in the past due to the political stand of a number of its members.

Tariq 'Aziz added: I sincerely hope that these members will review their stand in light of the factual developments. If they fail to do so, they will have to answer the questions that will be raised by the international community and within the Security Council.

Tariq 'Aziz explained that he will discuss the situation with the UN Security Council members and will urge them to work in accordance with the spirit and letter of the UN resolutions to reach the right conclusion.

Replying to the NEW YORK TIMES claims today that Iraq had spent large sums of money on reconstruction, Tariq 'Aziz said that Iraq is proud of the reconstruction of its facilities that the aggression had destroyed, adding that Iraq has great architects who, during the seige, rebuilt the presidential palace, dams, hospitals, bridges, refineries, and power plants, and which are national landmarks in which Iraq takes pride.

Albright Spokeswoman Cited

JN1411191794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1823 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 14 Nov (INA)—Ann James Rubik [name as transliterated], official spokeswoman for Madeleine Albright, said that Albright today deliberately wore a brooch in the form of a snake in response to the poem recently published in Iraq. Rubik was referring to a poem published in AL-'IRAQ newspaper last month, which described Albright as a snake.

Rubik told correspondents that Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz stood up and ended the brief meeting with the U.S. ambassador, who is also the Security Council's president for this month, after he had handed her the documents and requested her to distribute them among the Security Council member states.

Security Council Review of Blockade Reported

JN1511113894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Security Council held its first round of informal deliberations this evening, Baghdad local time, for its bimonthly review of the blockade imposed on Iraq.

Following the end of the first round, PRC Ambassador Li Zhaoxing said the majority of the Security Council member states thinks the Iraqi recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty is a very positive step and that the Security Council should welcome this step.

Madeleine Albright, the president of the Security Council for this month, said: The Security Council members have asked me to say that we have finished reviewing the sanctions and decided to maintain them without any change. We have also discussed Iraq's conduct—as she put it—including, of course, the letter handed to me as president of the Security Council on the decision to recognize Kuwait and its borders, issued on 10 November.

Albright said the Security Council will discuss this letter thoroughly this evening, New York time, midnight Baghdad time, as a separate item on the agenda. She said the Security Council is expected to adopt a formal measure regarding the letter.

An INA correspondent in New York said the Security Council is expected to issue a statement noting that the Security Council has received a letter from the foreign minister of Iraq, copies of the Revolution Command Council's decree, and the National Assembly's declaration on the recognition of Kuwait and its borders, in accordance with Resolution 833 of 1993.

The Security Council statement is expected to say that the Security Council welcomes this development and that the president of the Security Council will send a letter stating this to Iraq's permanent UN representative welcoming.

The Security Council is also expected to affirm that this Iraqi decision is an important and necessary step to maintain peace and stability in the region and that the

Security Council will watch the implementation of this decision and the other relevant Security Council resolutions.

The INA correspondent observed that the U.S. representative was spitting venom during the first session of deliberations. She spoke about the programs of reconstruction in Iraq in language that is full of blind hatred of Iraq and its great achievements. She said: How do the Iraqis complain to the United Nations about a lack of resources when they have undertaken such reconstruction over the past four years?

The British ambassador then spoke, repeating the U.S. representative's fabrications and talking about the importance of implementing the rest of the Security Council resolutions.

PRC To Seek Reduction in Monitoring Period

JN1511122994 Baghdad INA in English 1005 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov. 15, INA—The Chinese ambassador to Iraq has said that his country's diplomacy will exert serious efforts for reducing the period of the long-term monitoring system to less than six months.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper, published today, the ambassador affirmed that the Security Council should admit that Iraq's recognition of Kuwait was a conclusive and important step on the way of solving all pending problems after the 1991 events.

All Security Council members, including the United States and Britain must take into consideration significance of this initiative, because engineering stability and peace in this vital region of the world is in all parties' interest, the Chinese ambassador said.

He shed light on China's call upon the international community to put the Iraqi initiative in its right direction and seriously and swiftly work for the lifting of the sanctions gradually so as to alleviate suffering of the Iraqi people.

U.S., British Efforts To Maintain Sanctions Viewed

JN1511120994 Baghdad INA in English 0950 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov. 15, INA—During Monday's [14 November] review of the trade sanctions on Iraq by the Security Council, the U.S. Administration and Britain foiled attempts by other members of the council to fix a time for ending the embargo on the country, the Iraqi English-language newspaper 'THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER' said.

A paper article today added that this conclusion is quite known before even the start of the review as these two countries have reacted in a hostile manner to Iraq's recent recognition of Kuwait and its borders set by the U.N. Demarcation Committee.

Both countries described the Iraqi move as not enough for the Security Council to end the four-year-old trade sanctions on Iraq.

This hostile attitude was referred to by Iraq's Deputy Premier Tariq 'Aziz who is the Iraqi official in charge of the relations between Iraq and the Security Council. Aziz said shortly before he left to New York to attend the council's review of the sanctions that without the (hostile) stand of the USA and Britain the council would have lifted the trade sanctions on Iraq a long time ago. "Throughout this year, the American and British positions have been the main stumbling block before adopting a positive resolution concerning Paragraph 22 (a partial lift of the embargo)", Mr. 'Aziz explained, the paper said.

The paper stressed that this American stand has been even criticized by permanent members of the Council. AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper on Monday quoted sources at the French Foreign Ministry as saying that the U.S. is demanding impossible conditions to be fulfilled by Iraq before any lift of the sanctions.

The paper pointed out that Iraq has met all the Security Council resolutions. It has done even move than these resolutions.

The paper stressed that as its world wide known that the recognition of states is left to any country to decide that. It is not an obligatory situation. However, Iraq has done so to foil the U.S. and British justification for prolonging the unjust trade sanctions. Iraq also wanted to react positively to a Russian initiative which aims at ending the sanctions on Iraq which start to cause heavy tolls among the Iraqis because of the shortages of food and medicine.

What else does the U.S. and British Government want Iraq to do after meeting all UN resolutions? It is quite clear now that the U.S. and Britain want to achieve political goals from prolonging the sanctions. Both countries want to see Iraq dismembered, the country would abandon its sovereignty and territorial integrity and eventually let the American and British colonise Iraq and control its oil wealth.

However, Iraqis would never let these two imperialist countries fulfill their vicious schemes even if it many cost them their lives. The Iraqis will keep their country ever united and has its own independent policy and control its wealth regardless of all [word indistinct] the paper concluded.

U.S., British Attitudes Toward Embargo Criticized

JN1311091594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 13 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has denounced the U.S.

Administration's insistence on harming the Iraqi people and maintaining the imposed economic embargo despite Iraq's full response to all international resolutions.

In an article written in the "Free Opinions" column today, the paper says: Now that we have closed all the dossiers which the U.S. Administration used as a pretext to maintain the embargo, the United States now creates new pretexts and opens new dossiers; dossiers which the world community should open against the Washington administration itself.

The paper says: First among these dossiers, which the world community should open against the White House administration, is the human rights dossier. The paper wonders: Has the world ever seen a party advocating human rights while it stages a siege—which is now four years old—on an entire people, depriving them of medicine, food, and other basic needs of life?

AL-QADISIYAH deplores the British position toward Iraq's stands and peace initiatives which are keen on establishing peace and security in the region. It says the position of John Major's government is subservient and subordinate to the United States.

The paper says: London's attitude is strange. So is its submission to the White House instructions despite the fact that the U.S. Administration has seized all the booty of the aggression against Iraq and deprived its other partners of the major deals it signed with certain Gulf regimes through the policy of intimidation and threats.

Paper Says Washington Should Apologize to Iraqis

JN1311081594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 13 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said the ceaseless allegations by the U.S. Administration that the Iraqi measure is not enough to consider lifting the embargo shows a disdain of international laws and the UN Charter.

The paper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says in an article that the U.S. positions toward Iraq constitute a disdain of the will of the international community as expressed by several influential states, particularly UN Security Council permanent members, who noted Iraq's concern for world peace and security.

The paper calls on the U.S. Administration not only to acknowledge that Iraq has fulfilled all its commitments toward the UN Security Council resolutions, but also to apologize to our people for the—by all standards—grave damage it inflicted on them.

The paper notes the deceptive campaigns launched by the U.S. Administration in the past five years to distort Iraq's peaceful positions and influence the world public opinion to justify its flagrant aggression against our people.

The paper stresses that the deceptive U.S. campaigns were marked by changing the disputed issues. As soon as one case is finished, these campaigns soon take a different position and set new objectives. The main objective, however, remains unchanged; that is to harm the people of Iraq, weaken them and obstruct their peaceful march of development.

The paper concludes its article by calling on Washington to view positively the will of the international community, which is moving toward lifting the injustice done to Iraq and the unfair embargo imposed on it, if Washington is truly concerned about the principles of international law and the application of UN Security Council resolutions as it claims to be.

Clinton Urged To Pay Attentión to Internal Problems

JN1111110294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 11 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Nov (INA)—An Iraqi newspaper has said the main reason why the [U.S.] Democratic Party was defeated is the fact that U.S. President Bill Clinton focused on foreign policy and on pursuing aggression and terrorism against world peoples.

In an article today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, urges President Clinton to pay due attention to Americans' internal problems, particularly their economic and security problems.

The paper adds: U.S. voters have expressed their absolute rejection of the aggressive policies adopted by successive U.S. administrations, whether Republican or Democratic. The U.S. people's interests can be served by stabilizing their security situation, providing jobs, and removing the causes of crime and unemployment.

AL-THAWRAH points out that this will not be achieved if successive U.S. administrations insist on basing their dealings with other states and peoples on the principle of imposing U.S. positions, interests, and hegemony, and avoiHing respecting others' interests and establishing equitable relations with them.

The paper considers the outcome of the recent elections as a referendum through which the Americans clearly showed that they are against aggression, continued hostility to peoples, and threats to wage war against others, whether by Clinton or other U.S. presidents.

Concluding, the paper says: These voters have the final say. They have brought in the current president, but they are now threatening him with departure.

Defense Minister Receives Russian Ambassador

JN1011165594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 2 Nov 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid yesterday received Russian Ambassador Nikolay Kartuzov in Baghdad. The discussion during this meeting dealt with the historical and economic relations between the two friendly countries and means of strengthening them in the interest of both peoples.

The defense minister reviewed the negative effects of the continuous unfair blockade on Iraq and the injustice to the Iraqi people, saying: The state of inaction in the UN Security Council concerning Iraq has begun to be reactivated thanks to Russia's effective role and France's assistance.

Ambassador Nikolay praised the reconstruction and building campaign that is being carried out by the Iraqis, saying: I am fully convinced about the Iraqi's ability and self-confidence despite the harsh circumstances caused by the blockade.

Minister on Business Contracts With European Firms

AU1411121694 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 14 Nov 94 p 155

[Interview with Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "Back in Business"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [DER SPIEGEL] As a result of UN pressure, Iraq has now officially acknowledged Iraq and accepted the borders that were drawn after the Gulf war. Is Iraq facing a collapse if economic sanctions are not lifted soon?

[Salih] I proceed from the premise that the boycott against Iraq will not be maintained much longer.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is your conviction based on the hope that Russia will support Iraq?

[Salih] Russia naturally plays a positive role. However, France and other countries have also come to the conclusion that the time is ripe to stop punishing Iraq with an economic boycott.

[DER SPIEGEL] But it will be difficult for these countries to do anything against the U.S. and British veto.

[Salih] The United States and its ally, Britain, are treating us in the same way as they treated the inhabitants of Nagasaki and Hiroshima: They watch our women and children die. On the one hand, there is not sufficient food and medicine, and on the other, most people no longer have any money. I had to sell my family's gold.

[DER SPIEGEL] Food and medicine are exempt from the embargo. Why don't you import sufficient quantities to alleviate the misery of the people?

[Salih] We have no money. The pharmaceuticals and food that still reach the country via Jordan are imported by private businessmen and sold at high prices. Our assets abroad have been frozen. Last year the United Nations allowed us to buy rice, but this year the United States again ordered the blocking of our accounts.

[DER SPIEGEL] If Baghdad complied with the UN resolutions....

[Salih] The French ambassador to Riyadh has declared publicly that Iraq is fulfilling its obligations vis-a-vis the United Nations without any restrictions. Thus, the sanctions could be lifted now. Yet the United States wants something completely different: It wants to prevent Iraqi oil from reaching the world market again so that the oil price in the Gulf states, which is controlled by the Americans, does not drop.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is it true that representatives of foreign companies are discussing orders in Baghdad that are to be carried out once the embargo is lifted?

[Salih] European firms in particular which left their offices but did not close them down have approached Iraqi authorities in the past few months. Even U.S. companies establish contact in a roundabout way.

[DER SPIEGEL] What is the subject of these negotiations?

[Salih] All kinds of things: The delivery of food, of course, but also the supply of all kinds of vehicles and of equipment for our oil companies.

[DER SPIEGEL] Are these firms undermining the boycott?

[Salih] A number of foreign companies have already concluded contracts with us. U.S. companies are promising us that they will again carry out business with us once the laws permit it. They know that it is not possible to exclude Iraq from the world economy forever.

Rabin: No Peace Without 'Painful Concessions' on Golan

TA1111080594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 11 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said yesterday that the settlements in Judaea and Samaria were planned without sufficient concern for the safety of the residents. In Judaea and Samaria, the settlements did not form contiguous blocs like the Qatif or 'Etzyon Blocs, but were widely dispersed. We will have another 70 Kfar Darom's and Netzarim's [reference to isolated Gaza Strip settlements], the prime minister said. Rabin added that if there had been a plan for guaranteeing the security of Jewish settlers in highly populated Palestinian areas, the situation would have been different.

Prime Minister Rabin was speaking at a seminar in memory of the late Moshe Dayan at Tel Aviv University. As for the Golan Heights, the prime minister said there could be no peace without painful concessions and anyone who called for peace while seeking to retain all of the Golan Heights was in reality rejecting any chance for peace.

[Begin Rabin recording] Anyone who wants peace with all of the Golan is actually saying no to peace. That is the simple truth. How much of the Golan to give up is another question entirely. Therefore, we promise that if achieving the kind of peace acceptable to the government calls for a significant and painful withdrawal, we will hold a national referendum on the matter and let the people decide. We have to ask what alternative there is to peace negotiations with Syria—a state of political deadlock with all the attendant ramifications. Such a situation may also have a detrimental effect on what has already been achieved. [end recording]

The prime minister said that the gaps between Syria and Israel were large. Over the next eight or nine months, we will have to see where we stand in the negotiations with Damascus, Rabin said.

[A similar report on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 11 November carries a recorded passage of Rabin's remarks in which he says: "The Jewish settlements in the populated areas of Judaea and Samaria constitute a tremendous security burden on the army today. A huge burden. And when we reach agreement, things will become even more complicated." The report notes that "Rabin also revealed that more than twice as many battalions are stationed in the territories than in south Lebanon."]

Rabin on Settlements, Autonomy's Interim Stage

TA1511120894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the Palestinian Authority [PA] must act against terrorists operating from the Gaza Strip. He also said no settlements will be moved during the interim period of autonomy. Rabin this morning toured Netzarim in the Gaza Strip and spoke with soldiers guarding the settlement, as well as with some of its residents. More from Dani Gur-Arye:

[Begin recording] [Gur-Arye] Prime Minister Rabin toured Israeli military bases here in the Gaza Strip. He met with top Army officers, but he did not enter Israeli settlements here in the strip. He held a press conference at the large military base here near Neve Deqalim where we are broadcasting from. He was asked at the press conference about the possibility of relocating some of the Israeli settlements. Rabin ruled out any relocation in the interim stage of the agreement with the Palestinians.

[Rabin] It is written very clearly, as a result of our demands, that for the period of the interim agreement no settlements will be uprooted. Therefore, we'll stick to the agreement. It adds to the need of our military forces, and no doubt, created more targets to terrorists to attack, but this is our commitment under the agreement, which we came to the Knesset to be approved by the Knesset, and since then it is a commitment to us in a legal way, to the legislative body.

[Gur-Arye] Earlier this morning, Rabin visited the site of the attack on Friday [11 November] near Netzarim, in which three Israeli officers were killed. Residents of Netzarim, who waited for the prime minister outside the settlement, called out in support of his ongoing decision not to relocate the settlement. Rabin said in response that he does not need any prodding on this issue, that he is resolved to keep the settlements in their current location.

Rabin was also asked about the possibility that U.S. aid would be cut as a result of the recent congressional elections. Let's hear his response:

[Rabin] Allow me to remind you that we started to get the present level of assistance from the United States in 1984 under President Reagan. It was continued under President Bush and, no doubt, is continued under President Clinton. I believe that there is wide and deep understanding among the administrations, among members of the two Houses of the Congress for the need to strengthen Israel militarily and economically, and the Americans of all parties have realized that only a strong Israel can prevent wars, contribute to stability and tranquility in the region, and make it possible to Israel to take calculated risks for peace. Therefore, I am going there with the feeling that there is such an understanding and the change that came about as a result of the last elections, the midterm elections, in the United States will not affect this understanding on the part of the various branches of the Government of the United States. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rabin on PLO Early Empowerment, U.S. Visit

TA1311134994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the process of early empowerment in Judaea and Samaria is more complicated than in the Gaza Strip. Therefore, we should not act in haste nor run amok, but approach the matter in an orderly fashion even if the process takes many months. The important thing is to guarantee security.

Mr. Rabin was speaking at a cabinet debate dealing with possible technical solutions to separate Arabs and Jews in the territories.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the prime minister spoke at length about the power to use administrative detentions in the war against terrorism. Our correspondent notes that the prime minister and Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir do not agree on this issue. The attorney general is opposed to holding anyone in administrative detention for over six months.

Mr. Rabin also mentioned his upcoming visit to the United States and said that, following the elections, the United States was a different, more isolationist, country. In his meetings in Washington, the prime minister will focus on U.S. aid to Israel.

Rabin Said To Seek Meeting With Helms During Visit

TA1211193694 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Nov 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who will arrive in the United States on a one-week tour beginning next week, is scheduled to meet in Los Angeles with California Governor Pete Wilson. Our correspondent in the United States Ya'aqov Ahime'ir reports that this meeting is seen as important in the wake of the landslide victory achieved by the Republican Party in the elections. Mr. Wilson is a Republican who was reelected governor, and he may seek his party's nomination for the U.S. Presidency in two years.

Our correspondent further reports that the possibility of arranging a meeting between Mr. Rabin and Senator Jesse Helms, who will chair the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, is being explored. There is growing conviction in Washington that under Mr. Helms, this committee will seek to restrict financial aid to the Middle East.

Peres Interviewed on Peace Talks, Jerusalem

TA1011193394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Nov 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Shlomo Ganor and Menashe Bakhar in the studio on 10 November; from the "Encounter" program—recorded, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; translated from the Hebrew]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Ganor] Mr. Peres, when this interview is aired this evening, the exchange of instruments of ratification with Jordan will already have taken place. What kind of relations does Israel intend to have with Jordan?

[Peres] Active rather than passive. It will not be merely a relationship of nonbelligerency but rather relations wherein both countries will attempt to build a new world from the economic and geographic viewpoints. We will center our efforts on turning the 'Arava Valley between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea into a blooming and flourishing area.

[Bakhar] After peace was signed with Egypt, people expected a very warm peace, with extensive tourism and other types of ties. Will peace with Jordan be warm and solid?

[Peres] Yes. I think one of the problems we faced with Egypt was that Egypt proceeded alone in the peace process. Today we already have ties of peace with five or six different groups, and this is really starting to be a regional issue, so we do not face the same problems as before. You must remember, however, that our relations with Egypt have warmed up this year. For the first time ever, 12,000 Egyptian tourists visited Israel. We are jointly building a refinery near Alexandria at a cost of $1 billion. We are handling a lengthy series of issues. Only a few days ago, an extremely impressive group of Egyptian industrialists visited Israel.

[Bakhar] What about Jordan?

[Peres] Here we are beginning from scratch to recruit the resources, develop water sources, and carry out a feasibility study on the development of the 'Arava. We are starting to work, although it will take some time.

[Ganor] Will an Israeli Embassy be opened in Amman next month?

[Peres] Yes.

[Ganor] Who will be the ambassador?

[Peres] Whoever is appointed.

[Ganor] Is there any preferred candidate?

[Peres] Not yet. I will not comment on this before the government and the appointments committee make the decision.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, I assume you will broach the issue of Jerusalem in your meeting with King Husayn today. Israel, Jordan, and the PLO all have demands on Jerusalem. Does this situation not endanger the agreements that have already been achieved and those to be achieved in the future?

[Peres] I do not think so. We agreed to preserve the status quo until the permanent stage is reached. From the political viewpoint, Jerusalem remains the united capital of Israel under Israeli sovereignty. The Palestinians will retain unhindered all the civilian institutions they possessed up to the Oslo agreement: educational, cultural, and religious. The Jordanians will retain the religious role they played prior to the Oslo agreement and the Washington Declaration. In practical terms, therefore, nothing has changed. Each party fulfilled its role until now and will continue to do so in the future.

[Ganor] What kind of solution do you foresee for Jerusalem in the future?

[Peres] It is interesting to note that two key figures involved in the Jerusalem issue—King Husayn and King Hassan—used almost the same language in reference to Jerusalem. They said the Muslim interest in Jerusalem is more religious than political in nature. King Hassan said it is wishful thinking to believe Jerusalem will ever return to what it was in the past. In other words, we will have to find the solution in the religious rather than in the political sphere.

[Ganor] Do you foresee an administrative or functional solution?

[Peres] I do not know the precise meaning of the word functional. We will evince the greatest possible consideration for Islam's religious needs. Look, early this year we signed an agreement with the Vatican, after almost 2,000 years of bad feelings and even hostility. The Vatican recognized Israel's present political status, while we recognized the just needs of the Vatican. We are willing to do with the Muslims what we have done with the Vatican with regard to Christianity.

[Bakhar] Are you concerned about the excessive demonstration of independence evinced by the Palestinians in East Jerusalem?

[Peres] Look, I am not one of those people who immediately becomes edgy after reading a newspaper report; I am not a restive person. There are limits, however, to what can be done in Orient House, and we must insist that these limits be preserved. I do not see anything wrong in guests being hosted at Orient House, just as there is nothing wrong in their being hosted in any restaurant in Jerusalem or in any private house. Orient House, on the other hand, is not permitted to govern the territories; neither can it be turned into another Foreign Ministry, because there is only one Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, and that is Israel's.

[Ganor] Why, then, should we not discuss the Jerusalem issue now rather than wait for the permanent arrangement, which might threaten everything that will be achieved by that point?

[Peres] Look, if we start negotiations on Jerusalem now, we will start a terrible dispute. Some things have to settle down in people's consciousness, and certain issues take precedence. By starting to discuss Jerusalem now, we would create a terrible dispute and inflame emotions in the Muslim and Arab worlds and among the Palestinians. It is simply madness to start a fire in the middle of a house without having fire-extinguishing equipment.

[Bakhar] Mr. Peres, you participated in the meeting with 'Arafat at the Erez checkpoint two days ago. Does Israel still regard 'Arafat as a strategic partner to the arrangement with the Palestinians? Was the meeting aimed at strengthening 'Arafat's position, which is becoming alarmingly weak?

[Peres] We certainly regard 'Arafat as a partner to the agreement, and we respect not only the partner but also the partnership—that is, all the things we promised in the DOP [Declaration of Principles]—and we intend to uphold them in letter and spirit. Undoubtedly, not only Israel is encountering very difficult problems because of the violence; 'Arafat is also experiencing difficult problems because of the closure issue. We decided to gradually lift the closure and to help the economic development of Gaza. We also decided to fulfill our promises concerning early empowerment [last two words in English] in the other spheres. We have implemented all this and will continue to do so. Another idea I proposed was also accepted: Just as we have a tripartite U.S.-Jordanian-Israeli committee for economic development, we will establish a tripartite U.S.-Palestinian-Israeli committee for the development of the territories.

[Bakhar] Criticism is being leveled against 'Arafat from within Fatah as well. We heard Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, who headed the Palestinian peace delegation in the past, say that 'Arafat's position is difficult and that he is encountering opposition. Will Israel carry out dramatic gestures to rehabilitate 'Arafat's status?

[Peres] We are not in the business of dramaturgy; we deal with reality. If it depended on 'Abd-al-Shafi, however, he would have continued to conduct negotiations to this day, in which case there would have been no room for criticism. If one conducts negotiations without concluding anything, then one's situation is very good. Every agreement causes some controversy, but it is better to have an agreement with controversy than no agreement and no controversy. You know, 'Arafat once told me that people used to treat his picture as though he was the Prophet Muhammad, with great admiration and respect. Now, on the other hand, it is being ripped to shreds. I told him: Mr. Chairman, the Jerusalem mufti led the Palestinian issue for 43 years and continued to be popular by always evincing a negative attitude and organizing gangs. For 43 years he remained popular, but what did he accomplish for the Palestinians besides one tragedy after another? Because of him, no Palestinian state was established and he was responsible for the refugee problem. I told 'Arafat: You, too, have been around for 26 years, so together you have held sway for 71 years in this century. As long as you kept saying no and dealt in terrorism, you were popular, but now that you finally decided to do something, you have become controversial. Look, I told him, you are the first Palestinian leader who has given the Palestinian people a territorial address, their first leader to receive authority, the first Palestinian Arab leader who can educate his younger generation. The Palestinians were unable to educate their children under the Ottomans, the British, the Jordanians, or Israeli rule. You, 'Arafat, have now given them hope and food for the future. Nay-saying is a perfect thing, but it yields no results. All those who say yes cause controversy, but they also produce results.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, the next scheduled stage is to hold elections in the territories and to implement the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment. The question is: What is the timetable for holding elections?

[Peres] The timetable depends directly on our ability to find the necessary solutions. It is not time that resolves issues. Time is required for a solution, but I am sure that within a reasonable time—I do not want to say how much: weeks or months—we will be able to find solutions for all the issues on the agenda.

[Ganor] Including the redeployment of the IDF outside the densely populated towns in the West Bank?

[Peres] That is not exactly the way it is written. That is the stated aim, but we continue to bear responsibility for security. In other words, every issue must be looked at separately. If we will be able to withdraw the IDF, and it does not harm security, then why not?

[Ganor] Your deputy, for example, says it is possible to skip the interim stage.

[Peres] I do not see how. Skipping the interim stage involves the demarcation of the border—which in my view means getting involved in a huge dispute—and the Jerusalem issue. I think we need the next stage, which will combine all the possible issues, before we once again get involved in rhetorical saber rattling, before we start blaming each other.

[Bakhar] Sir, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] carries out terrorist actions. Can Israel view Hamas as a possible negotiating partner in any setup?

[Peres] If you go into the street and meet somebody called Hamas who fires a rifle at you, what do you do? Would you say: Come and talk? If he shoots, one must fire back at him. There is no choice. If he stops shooting, we start talking. You cannot shoot and talk at the same time.

[Bakhar] Are there currently no official contacts and were there no official contacts between you and Hamas?

[Peres] I do not know what official contacts are. There are no negotiations with Hamas and there will be none, because Hamas is a violent organization which wants to destroy the peace and harm the State of Israel, and it is not a partner to talks.

[Ganor] Even if it participates in the elections and is elected?

[Peres] We will wait and see when that happens. At present, these are all hypothetical assumptions. But if it participates in the elections, it must decide why. To destroy peace? For that you do not need elections. Anyone who destroys the peace will also destroy the elections. If it changes its view, that would be something different.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, permit me to return to the issue of the IDF redeployment in the West Bank towns. Your position on the Gaza-Jericho First arrangement is known. You opposed maintaining the settlements that remained in the Rafah Bloc.

[Peres] Not in the Rafah Bloc but in the heart of Gaza—in Netzarim, Kefar Darom, etc.

[Ganor] Is that your opinion also about the Jewish settlement in the heart of Hebron?

[Peres] I would not like to answer that question. I would not have created that complex issue to begin with, because in Hebron the main problem is not the existence of 700 Jews in the heart of a town of 120,000 Palestinians. The real problem is the relations between those two groups. If the relationship can be changed, then a solution can also be found for the location of the people. Under the present circumstances, it is very difficult to find a solution, and the main thing today is to change the relations. We will work on that.

[Ganor] The issue is already under deliberation.

[Peres] We will have to find a solution, I know.

[Ganor] In what direction? Uprooting the Jewish settlement in the heart of Hebron?

[Peres] I do not think that is the direction now. I would not say that.

[Bakhar] Sir, at the end of the month, the U.S. secretary of state returns to our area. What has changed since President Clinton's visit two weeks ago, when he held contacts with President al-Asad? Are there any signs pointing to any movement, as President Clinton himself noted after he left the region?

[Peres] To the extent that there is movement, it is in our discussion of the third hurdle and not the first. The first difficult step is to get over the first hurdle, because what al-Asad is proposing is that Israel declare that it will withdraw from all of the Golan Heights, uproot all the Jewish settlements, and that then he will negotiate with us. That is total rubbish. That is not how negotiations are conducted. At the same time, even if we have not made a breakthrough, we do not want to reach a deadlock. We are interested in negotiating. Christopher's arrival will enable the negotiations to continue, and perhaps there might also be progress in the field. As is the case in negotiations in general, the main improvements have been in the atmosphere rather than on the ground. I have said that these are negotiations with wings rather than with legs. In other words, when they glide, they have enough air to breathe; when they tread, they do not have sufficient ground to make progress.

[Ganor] The current dispute is over whether to believe al-Asad.

[Peres] That is a stupid debate. If somebody says not to trust al-Asad unless he has interests, then okay, he has an interest in making peace. There is no conflict between the two. Will he make peace with us and start a war? If he starts a war, he will get clobbered again. All these things are imaginary and irrelevant. The fact is that al-Asad has remained committed to an agreement we signed with him. It is true that it is very hard to reach an agreement with him, but when it is reached, he upholds it.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, you noted that progress has been made. How do envision the future with the Syrians: talks between army officers, a meeting between you and your Syrian counterpart, a meeting at a higher level?

[Peres] In my view, unless the Syrians change the level of the negotiations, on the one hand, and the negotiating system, on the other, we will all be marking time. It is inconceivable that everybody should follow the Syrians. Everywhere in the world, negotiations are conducted on a political level and not only at a lower level—the diplomatic level. I do not understand why the Syrians are obstinate. If they want peace, why are they so shy?

[Bakhar] Are there deep differences on all the issues we are discussing with them, or are there one or two special issues on which more substantive progress can be made?

[Peres] Look, there is the problem of starting negotiations and of the level of negotiations. That is quite enough. Had the Syrians accepted the practice in such cases and learned from negotiations that have been more successful, progress would be made.

[Ganor] Today, following the results of the U.S. elections, will the pressure by Christopher, by the United States, on Syria bear fruit and convince them to choose the path you have indicated?

[Peres] The U.S. elections have not changed the fact that the United States has remained the only superpower in the world. The elections have not changed the fact that the USSR has collapsed. Syria has lost a most important backer which cannot be replaced. As it is, the Syrians themselves are interested in improving relations with the United States. The United States continues to be a superpower and a democracy and continues to have an interest in peace, especially since of all the areas in the world, we have provided the most satisfaction, if that can be said, to U.S. diplomacy.

[Ganor] So you are not concerned about the outcome of the U.S. elections?

[Peres] I am not worried because we are marching in the same direction. It is not only the results of the U.S. elections that will determine things; the path Israel will take will determine matters. We are taking a path that arouses a great deal of support and excitement among the residents of the United States, among U.S. voters, and among the U.S. Administration.

[Bakhar] Do you not fear that Bill Clinton will now be less interested in foreign diplomacy and deal with domestic matters, following the defeat he sustained?

[Peres] On the contrary, I think he will be more interested, because the obstacles he can expect are more in the area of domestic policy, while the freedom of action awaiting him lies more in the area of foreign policy. Therefore, the contrary is true. Usually in the United States, foreign policy crosses party lines. Most of the differences in the United States are over domestic affairs. In this case, the Senate's views differ from those of the President on health, economic, and other such issues rather than on foreign policy issues. Where Israel is involved, there is definitely bipartisan support in the U.S. Congress.

[Ganor] Including the level of aid? Are you not concerned about a cut in U.S. military and economic aid?

[Peres] Look, our aid is made up of two parts: One part, $1.2 billion, is what is called economic aid. All that money is directed at repayment of debts. The Senate decided that debt repayment would never exceed the grant given us. The second part, $1.8 billion in military aid, is being eroded because inflation eats away at it and arms are becoming much more expense. I also think that the Pentagon to some extent enjoys the cooperation with Israel. Israel is not a sleepy and static country which has nothing to contribute to the military-technology field. There is interest in that field. The United States spends $120 billion to keep its Army in Europe. We cooperate, which I believe contributes to peace and to good relations between the two states, and I hope that level of aid will remain intact. [passage omitted]

[Ganor] Following Cairo, Amman, and Rabat, which Arab countries will establish diplomatic relations with us in the near future?

[Peres] There is one state that said it would establish relations in January, but I do not want to name it yet. I believe that in its wake, there will be two other states, which makes eight states that will live in peace with Israel.

[Ganor] Mr. Foreign Minister, thank you for being with us.

Peres on Delay of Christopher Trip, Settlements

TA1411103994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the postponement of U.S. Secretary of State

Warren Christopher's visit to the Middle East shows that the United States has also become convinced that the extent of the Syria's sense of urgency regarding peace with Israel is insufficient and that a more explicit Syrian answer is required. Minister Peres said that the Syrians are 15 years behind Egypt and that if Syria had entered negotiations with Israel 15 years ago it could have achieved all that al-Sadat had.

On another issue, the foreign minister said that there are some settlements in the territories that should not remain in their current locations.

Our correspondent Esti Perez reports that Foreign Minister Peres made these remarks at the end of a meeting with Austrian President Thomas Klestil. The latter is currently touring the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and will later confer with Mayor Ilyas Frayj, the official in charge of tourism in the Palestinian Authority. President Klestil will not meet as planned with senior Palestinians in East Jerusalem, apparently because of his refusal to go to Orient House. Palestinian sources told our correspondent Dani Zaqen that the Palestinians rejected a compromise proposal to hold the meeting at the Hospice Hospital in East Jerusalem.

No-Confidence Motions on Political Issues Defeated

TA1411193294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking at the Knesset, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the continued existence of the settlement of Netzrim in the heart of the Arab population in the Gaza Strip fulfilled no Zionist, security, or economic need. Responding to the no-confidence motions submitted against the government, Peres called on the opposition not to sow fear among the people.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 14 November reports: "The coalition defeated two no-confidence motions this evening on social and political issues. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the opposition no-confidence motion on poverty was supported by 53 Knesset members [MK's], including the members of the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] faction, and was opposed by 58 MK's, including two members of the YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] faction. Arab Democratic Party MK Talib al-Sani' abstained.

["As for the vote on the political process, the SHAS faction did not vote with the opposition and the result was 59 votes to 48 votes in favor of the coalition, with the five SHAS MK's abstaining."]

Baraq: PA Responsible for Keeping 'Terrorists' Away

TA1111161794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1510 GMT 11 Nov 94

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe at Netzarim junction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Massive IDF [Israel Defense Forces], Israel Police, and Border Police forces are still deployed here around the Netzarim junction. Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq, who spoke here with correspondents a few minutes ago, said the Palestinian Authority [PA] is responsible and that the IDF has approached the Palestinian police and asked them to take action. The chief of staff also responded to the Palestinian assertion that the Netzarim bombing was carried out in reaction to the assassination of Hani al-'Abid:

[Begin recording] [Baraq] I do not know exactly how Hani al-'Abid was killed. What I am saying is that we hold the PA responsible. They have been given control over nearly a million of their people on most of the territory of the Gaza Strip. As far as we are concerned, the PA should prevent the movement of terrorists and explosives—be they by car or bicycle—to this location.

[Menashe] Have there been warnings about possible attacks in this area?

[Baraq] There are always plenty of warnings about possible terrorist attacks in the Gaza Strip. I do not want us to delude ourselves, however: If the PA fails in preventing terrorists from reaching their destination and in uprooting Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] operations in general, and if a terrorist prepared to set off a bomb reaches his destination, there is no simple way to guarantee full protection.

[Menashe] Does the army know exactly what happened?

[Baraq] A man riding a bicycle arrived at the IDF outpost near the Netzarim junction, in whose vicinity a Palestinian police outpost is also located. A special force was also deployed here to deal with a possible demonstration. The suicide terrorist arrived on his bicycle and set off the explosives when he was close to the soldiers. As a result, three of our soldiers were killed and four others were wounded: two slightly and two more seriously.

[Menashe] Will the Israeli and the Palestinian police now change their tactics here?

[Baraq] The Palestinian police and the PA are responsible for preventing people and vehicles that have not undergone inspection from arriving at this location. We will discuss this issue with them. The joint military committee will convene tonight, and we will decide together what improvements can be made in the security arrangements here. I do not expect anything to be implemented at once or in the coming days. Right now, the road is closed all the way to Netzarim, and we will meet with the Palestinians tonight.

[Israel TV Channel 1 correspondent Shlomi Eldar] Will the IDF or Israel take any steps in the wake of this attack?

[Baraq] The joint military committee will convene tonight. This was an extremely serious event, and as I said, we hold the PA responsible for preventing the terrorists from reaching this place. Together with them, we will contemplate future steps. [end recording]

Baraq Says PA Moves To Impact on Content of Talks

TA1111193994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Nov 94

[News conference with Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq at Netzarim junction in Gaza on 11 November—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Channel 1 correspondent Shlomi Eldar] What operational changes do you plan to protect the Netzarim settlement?

[Baraq] Right now, the road is closed, and it is now Friday night. The joint military committee will convene tonight to discuss the event, which we consider very grave. Although changes are bound to take time, and nothing will happen overnight, the joint military committee will explore every possibility to reduce the opportunities for friction which could cause casualties in this place. We must remember, however, that under the agreement, there are quite a few such points of friction throughout the Gaza Strip.

We adhere to our well-known stand that the Gaza and Jericho arrangement and the manner in which the Palestinian Authority [PA] discharges its share in the arrangement—and it makes no difference whether we reiterate this daily—is a test case of the nature, content, and resolve of our interlocutors, and they will therefore affect the nature, content, and resolve of future discussions.

Senior Officials Say Empowerment Must Continue

TA1111163194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The most senior political level in the Government of Israel has said that the political process and the empowerment must be pursued as agreed in this week's meeting between Rabin and 'Arafat.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz further reports that the senior sources believe that this time, in their response to the terrorist attack at Netzarim junction, the Palestinians have demonstrated greater assertiveness.

Security Receives Warnings on Green Line Attacks

TA1311175994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces fear there will be more attempts to carry out suicide attacks. Israeli security sources have stressed that it would be hard to prevent such attacks even if a closure were imposed on the territories. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the security forces have received warnings of plans to detonate car bombs and carry out suicide attacks within the Green Line as well. The security elements have reiterated the importance of public alertness in identifying suspicious cars and objects.

Committee Grants Leeway in Interrogations

TA1311175794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ministerial Committee on the General Security Service [GSS] has decided to allow GSS interrogators to act with flexibility in reference to the Landau Commission report, which set the limitations of reasonable moderate pressure in interrogations. This step was taken in the context of the stepped up battle against Islamic extremists. The ministerial committee's decision is in effect for three months, at which point it will be reviewed further.

Israeli and Jewish institutions around the world have been placed on alert due to the fear of more attacks by Muslim extremists. Steps have been announced in Britain, France, and Germany.

IDF Shoot Nabulus Youth While Disbanding Rioters

TA1511104194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A Nabulus youth was shot and wounded by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] when it was disbanding rioters with rubber bullets and tear gas. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the youth, who sustained medium wounds, was taken to a local hospital.

Rabin 'Shocked' at Outcome of U.S. Elections

TA1111105394 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cabinet members yesterday said that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was shocked by the results of the elections in the United States. They said that "the results changed his views on socioeconomic issues."

The prime minister was concerned that Labor could lose the next Israeli elections because of a feeling that socioeconomic problems are not being solved. The prime minister vented his feelings during the Labor ministers' session yesterday, which was partly devoted to discussing the Democratic defeat in the United States. Rabin said the fact that the Democrats were beaten despite the economic growth and decrease in unemployment in the United States should cause alarm among Labor's top echelon.

Peres 'Not Concerned' About Cut in U.S. Aid

TA1511082594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is not concerned about a cut in U.S. aid to Israel. The foreign minister said most of the aid is earmarked for repayment of Israel's debt to the United States. Mr. Peres said that the military aid serves both countries' strategic aims well. He stressed that Israel has good relations with both parties in Congress and that, therefore, he is not concerned about changes in the wake of the U.S. elections. Mr. Peres made the remarks to our correspondent Jack Katzenell following his meeting with the Austrian foreign minister.

Beilin Believes No Cut in U.S. Aid After Elections

TA1111072494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Washington sources have made the assessment that in light of the U.S. election results, the Republicans will now place obstacles to the granting of aid for Palestinian, Jordanian, and Middle Eastern peace projects. The sources nevertheless believe that there will be no reduction in the amount of annual aid to Israel. This has been reported by our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan.

Republican Senator Jesse Helms, who will be the new chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, explained that the amount of U.S. foreign aid has to be cut. He said that Americans have to stop wasting billions of dollars on NATO, the United Nations, and the Middle East peace process. Helms emphasized that the United States has spent between $80-$100 billion on the peace process since the signing of the Camp David accords by Egypt and Israel. The senator does not believe that Syria is seeking peace with Israel, it only wants the Golan Heights. The other thing Syria is interested in is access to the pocketbooks of the U.S. taxpayers.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, who is currently visiting Washington, reacted to these statements by saying that he does not believe that the United States will cut the $3 billion in annual aid to Israel. Beilin said that the issue of foreign aid could not be decided by one man. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 11 November, in its report on Beilin's remarks adds: "Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin says the presence of American troops on the Golan, is not a precondition for peace with Syria. Beilin was delivering a lecture in Washington. He said security arrangements on the Golan can be achieved and do not pose an obstacle in the peace negotiations. On the Syrian side, Beilin said there is willingness to solve the problem."]

Shohat: U.S. Aid Cut To Endanger Peace

TA1111153294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1430 GMT 11 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said a cut in U.S. foreign aid to the Middle East could endanger the entire peace process and encourage radical organizations. Our economic affairs correspondent 'Oded Shahar heard Minister Shohat's reaction to the reports from Washington about a possible cut in U.S. aid:

[Begin recording] [Shohat] The moment there will be no investments and no economic development, the inhabitants of the Arab countries and the Palestinians will feel that the peace process did not come up with the goods. The peace process is accompanied by a great deal of optimism about investments, development, and employment, raising living standards, increasing the GNP, and providing health and education services. If there will be no such process, which must be accompanied by very large capital investments in the region, there will be disappointment, and the moment that happens, the entire process will become questionable.

[Shahar] Could that encourage radical organizations?

[Shohat] We witnessed the event in the Gaza Strip, and we are constantly witnessing activities by radical organizations, which act for religious and political reasons, but all base themselves on poverty and deprivation. If things do not change, all the radical movements have room to grow. [end recording]

European Parliament Leader on Future of U.S. Aid

TA1411121694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Europe may be willing to step in to fill the gap should American aid to Israel be cut. The European position was spelled out in the wake of a threat to assistance after the Republican victory in the U.S. midterm elections. London correspondent Jerry Lewis was talking with Pauline Green, the European Parliament majority leader.

[Begin recording] [Lewis] The majority leader of the European Parliament has told Israel Radio that she deeply regrets the suggestion made last week that the United States may, as a consequence of last week's elections, decide to cut a substantial part of its aid package to the Middle East.

Following a shift in the balance of power within the European Union structure as a result of the Mastricht Treaty, the European Parliament will in the future have a far greater say in policy matters. And, heading as she does the majority grouping of MEP's [member of European Parliament], her influential position and her strong support for the Middle East peace process is considered by Israeli diplomats as most important and significant.

After giving a keynote address on her plans for the future of Europe at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, she made clear to Israel Radio that the European Union could not ignore the changed circumstances that the Middle East might face as a result of the proposed changes to the American aid program.

[Green] And, I think the United States is going to opt out of that, which I think is very much to be regretted. Then, I think we have to look at how the union can actually further support, because after all, we're talking about an area that is right on our backyard, right in our backyard. It's not in the Americans' backyard; it's in ours. And, I think we have to be clear that we have got to give maximal support to finding peace in what has been one of the most troubled parts of the world. [end recording]

Austria's Klestil Says Ready To Send Troops to Golan

TA1311121494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 13 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Austrian President Thomas Klestil has arrived in Israel on an official visit—the first ever by an Austrian president. He is due to meet President Weizman and Prime Minister Rabin. Before leaving Vienna, our correspondent Lucien Meisels asked him whether he would have anything new to disclose on restitution payments for Holocaust survivors and on Austria's attitude to the peace process.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted]

[Klestil] We see now that Israel's security can only be secured forever if it lives in peace with its neighbors. As far as a mediator, of course Austria and myself is available, but this you can only do if you are asked by all partners in a conflict.

[Meisels] One of Austria's most positive contributions has been the dispatch of peace keepers to the Golan Heights. Would you be ready to send more troops there in case of an Israeli-Syrian agreement involving such troops on the Golan?

[Klestil] I would personally—and as the commander-in-chief of the Austrian Army, I think my word would have particular weight in this connection—I feel, because of the experience our troops have in the Golan Heights. I would very much support that we continue to play, or take over, an additional role, if that would contribute to the solution of the problem, because the Golan Heights are the problem in the possible peace process between Syria and Israel. [end recording]

Al-Majali Confers With Islamic Conference Chief

JN1311181694 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 13 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has conferred with Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Conference [ICO] Hamid Algabid on Middle East peace and Islamic affairs. Mr. Algabid, who is in Amman attending the round table on the human dimension of peace in the Middle East, wished Jordan further success after signing the peace treaty with Israel. The ICO secretary general hailed the peace accord as a positive step with great impact on this important area. He expressed hope that the treaty would pave the way for a just and comprehensive peace and the restoration of Arab rights so that the Middle East would witness a new era of cooperation and development.

Prime Minister al-Majali thanked the ICO secretary general for his stand, and said: Jordan was keen on unifying Arab and Muslim ranks through constructive participation in ICO activities. He added: The world is witnessing change that requires Muslim unity so that the Islamic nation would keep its credibility among nations.

Earlier the prime minister received the president of Windsor University in Canada and discussed cooperation between Jordan and Canada in the fields of education and technology.

Opposition Claims 'Muzzling of Public Liberties'

JN1411123194 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 14 Nov 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The secretaries general of 11 parties met yesterday to discuss the government's practices, which conflict with democracy and violate public liberties, and issued the following statement:

The democratic march and public liberties in our country are facing a broad and fierce onslaught that threatens the democracy witnessed after the parliamentary elections in 1989. Since the beginning of the negotiating process after the Madrid conference, the democratic march and public liberties have been exposed to a series of aggressions and restrictions that became tighter and fiercer in recent months, reaching an apex during the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty on 26 October 1994. All these practices aimed to suffocate the opposition voice and deny it any chance to express its opposition stand toward this treaty and the government's aggressions. Restriction of public liberties has led to the deterioration of the democratic march, emptied it of its contents, and disappointed our people's hopes of having a democratic atmosphere and getting rid of the martial law mentality that prevailed in our countries for decades.

The aggressive and repressive practices have targeted several chief editors of weekly party and nonparty newspapers. These chief editors were summoned and put on trial. Some were put in solitary detention. Party members and nonmembers were arbitrarily arrested without a Constitutional excuse, as happened in Amman, al-Zarqa', Irbid, at al-Yarmuk University, at Mu'tah University, in Madaba, and in other cities.

A number of Islamic Action Front [IAF] deputies have been summoned by prosecutors general and administrative governors. Several seminars, sit-ins, demonstrations, and rallies by the opposition parties and forces were banned, while the supporters of the government and the treaty were allowed to stage rallies, celebrations, and demonstrations. In addition, the executive authority dominates radio, television, and the major daily newspapers at a time when the opposition is deprived of using them to express its view and position.

The aggressions against liberties and democratic march also targeted youth clubs, on which administrative boards were imposed, and trades unions and mosque preachers. A number of IAF deputies were attacked, especially deputy Shaykh 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant, who was blatantly attacked while he was leaving Abu-Hurayrah Mosque in Nazzal suburb in Amman. This attack is considered an aggression against the House of Representatives and the Jordanian people. These aggressions did not spare several citizens who were detained and abused at al-Yarmuk and Mu'tah universities and in Irbid.

The government increased its military presence and provocations around the House of Representatives and in public areas, and around mosques in Amman and other cities. It returned the Jordanian street to the martial law atmosphere and heightened tension.

The opposition parties and forces have the right to express their opinion and position through words, sit-ins, strikes, peaceful demonstrations, and all democratic means, especially because Jordan is passing through a serious historical turning point that threatens its economic future and the independence of its political decisions.

Our people are facing huge and dangerous challenges at a time when facts are being overturned and forged, and citizens are being brainwashed in order to convince them that defeat has become victory, and that their historical enemy has so soon become a welcome friend.

Practicing democracy and political and party pluralism in words and deeds in a manner that ensures freedom of opinion through all available means is something very important, especially at present, in order to expose the dangers our homeland—land, water, and sovereignty—is facing, and expose any fakery that overturns facts in Israel's interest.

The parties that signed this statement, while very concerned about the deterioration of democracy and the muzzling of public liberties, and the violation of citizens' rights, urge our people and their popular, democratic, parliamentary, and professional forces and all other parties to protect the democratic march and defend public liberties. They ask the government to end the restrictions and the muzzling of liberties, and stop summoning, arresting, and harassing House of Representatives members, mosque preachers, and public figures. They call for allowing the opposition to express its view freely in the media—which do not allow the opposition to do so—and to practice their right to use all available means to express their view to the people.

Democracy cannot be established without safeguarding public liberties, which constitute a constitutional umbrella for the people's participation in decision-making and in confronting dangers and protecting the homeland.

The statement was signed by representatives of a coalition of opposition parties which now includes 11 parties. These are the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the IAF, the Pan-Arab Action Front Party, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Party-Hashd, the Jordanian Communist Party, Jordanian Arab Democratic Party, the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, the Progressive Jordanian Ba'th Party, the Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party, and the Constitutional Jordanian Arab Front Party.

Hundreds of Students Denounce Treaty With Israel

JN1211202194 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A protest march was staged at the University of Jordan today in which hundreds of students, both male and female, participated to denounce the Jordanian-Israeli treaty because it conceded territory, waters, and national rights.

The ASSOCIATED PRESS says that demonstrators raised black placards on which they wrote slogans expressing the Jordanian people's rejection of this treaty and to all forms of normalization in the economic, political, touristic, and cultural fields, and burned the Israeli flag.

For their part, the Jordanian opposition parties issued a statement today, denouncing the repressive measures by the Jordanian government and its departments against the nationalist forces. The statement said that these measures have increased in tone and fierceness in recent months and reached their climax at the time the treaty was signed.

Such statements have normally been signed by eight parties. However, this statement was signed by 11 parties after three parties joined for the first time: These are: the Progressive Arab Ba'th Party, the Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party, and the Constitutional Jordanian Arab Front Party. [passage omitted]

More on Demonstration

JN1411102594 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 14 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan University students on Saturday [12 November] demonstrated against the peace treaty with Israel. About 1,000 students carried posters condemning the treaty and declaring that the conflict with Jews is one of existence, not borders. At the end of the demonstration, the second in two weeks, the students burned the Israeli flag.

Brotherhood Chief on Policy, Ties With Regime

JN1411172594 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 15-21 Nov 94 pp 32, 29

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Majid al-Dhunaybat, controller general of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, by Hilmi al-Asmar; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Al-Asmar] You are accused that some of your preachers have departed from the familiar line and resorted to abuses in their opposition to the peacemaking with the Jews. Was this conduct in agreement with the official line? What measures have you taken, or will you take, against those who violate this line, knowing that the executive authority reportedly has these encroachments on record?

[Al-Dhunaybat] Our official discourse in which we express our position and viewpoints on various issues and events, adheres to the principles of the [Islamic] creed and religious rulings. Our methods also adhere to the principles of Islamic discourse and its objective conditions. If one of our preachers departs from these methods, we offer him our advice and directives, and we also caution him. Sometimes, we have to take disciplinary action against him.

We, however, note that there is clear exaggeration and deliberate amplification of some expressions which are taken out of context. These expressions are highlighted away from the gist of the overall sermon. Likewise, the positions of the preachers to whom these expressions are attributed are highlighted without taking into account the number of these positions out of the total number of positions as well as the number of preachers who do not make such slips of the tongue.

Finally, we stress the need to adhere to correct bases and propriety of speech. On the other hand, the Brotherhood has its known methods of expressing its official position.

[Al-Asmar] How would you describe the Muslim Brotherhood's relationship with the regime now? Do you expect any change in the near future in light of your declared position on the peace treaty with the Jews?

[Al-Dhunaybat] Our position on anything is governed by the Islamic rulings and the group's policies, emanating from its vision that is based on religious standards, interest of the nation and the homeland, assessment of realities, and how close or far from Islam such a ruling will be.

Stemming from these bases, we have explained our position on the peace treaty with the Jews. In the past, the relationship between the group and the regime was governed by several factors, including assessing the interest of the homeland and preserving its security, stability, and development. I do not believe that these factors have changed despite the fact that we opposed this treaty and cautioned against the Zionist threat and ambitions against the region. These ambitions go beyond Jordan's boundaries and capabilities. They also threaten the entire region and even the world. [passage omitted]

[Al-Asmar] The Muslim Brotherhood has had a moderating influence on the Islamic movement in Jordan. Do you think restrictions placed on your group may lead to more militant Islamic factions springing up?

[Dhunaybat] Thanks be to God, the Muslim Brotherhood must be credited for bringing moderation into the political arena away from extremism and violence both in terms of rhetoric and action. The Brotherhood's role in cementing national unity has been evident. It has also strengthened national unity in the face of challenges our country has encountered. It continues to play that role. Thanks be to God, the Brotherhood is fit to play the same role now and in the future. This is part of its message of reform and arousing the Islamic nation to action. However, we see some of those who profess love and loyalty to the homeland engage, knowingly or unknowingly, in practices detrimental to the country's unity and security such as those that distinguish between one citizen and another based on his place of origin.

Restrictions placed on our group in these critical times may lose the movement its moderation. Thus, if curbs against the Muslim Brotherhood do not stop, we do not rule out our country going through the same experiences of certain Arab countries. This is particularly so given that the coming stage will see the Jews practicing all forms of pressure and corruption. [passage omitted]

[Al-Asmar] The Israeli Government charges that you supply the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, will all manner of support. This charge may be used as a pretext for the Israeli Government to put pressure on Jordan?

[Dhunaybat] Hamas is a mujahid Palestinian faction in the occupied Palestinian territory acting from a legitimate right to stave off aggression and defeat occupation, a right enshrined in divine and secular laws. It has been exercised by all the peoples that have come under occupation and coercion.

Hamas is the spearhead of jihad on Palestinian territory. Its political and military command is based on that territory.

Any Muslim anywhere in the world cannot but stand by his fellow mujahidin as they fight to liberate their land and sacred places and end injustice.

We stick to our position supporting the jihad of our brothers in Palestine and every other Islamic land under occupation.

The continuing occupation and aggression against the Palestinian people will attract all Muslims to Palestine and its sacred cause which such agreements as the Oslo and Cairo accords and Arab-Jewish treaties cannot possibly eliminate. Hamas has earned the confidence and respect of Muslims throughout the world. In common with other jihad organizations, Hamas is the repository of Muslims' hopes. [passage omitted]

Paper: Foreign Victories Do Not 'Amuse' U.S. Voters

JN1111110994 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Nov 94 p 20

["Standpoint" column by Muhammad Ka'wash: "The Middle East, a Drop in the U.S. Sea"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been confirmed that the Middle East is not a factor in the Americans' internal battles.

There is a saying that a large percentage of the Americans do not know where the Middle East is. Some still think that it is somewhere near South America. Therefore, the White House leaders lost their domestic battles when they took the Middle East into their domestic considerations.

For example, President Carter, the hero of peace in Camp David, lost the reelection battle against a second-class actor. Reagan was neither a star or a real hero. President George Bush, who fought the Gulf War against Iraq for the sake of Israel and not Kuwait, lost his election battle against the handsome young man, Bill Clinton, who tried to imitate President John Kennedy.

Now, here is President Clinton, who has just emerged victorious from the battle of Middle East peace, observing with bitterness the results of the elections for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. His party lost a large number of seats to the Republican Party's candidates.

This confirms that foreign victories do not amuse Americans when compared to their economic and social needs, and also confirms that the Middle East is not their major concern, as we have thought. Is this not so?

Al-Hariri on 'Race' for Normalization With Israel

NC1511110594 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 15 Nov 94

[Speech by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri during the laying of the foundation stone for the Beirut Government Hospital in B'ir Hasan in Beirut on 15 November—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We have always said that Lebanon cannot stand idly by in the face of regional developments. And it cannot sit in the back seat while things are being prepared in several arenas for major challenges, especially development and economic challenges, in which national duty dictates we participate with the greatest of readiness and responsibility. [passage omitted]

I am fully confident that Lebanon can face the challenge. Accordingly it can also achieve a qualitative leap in its development and economic program to prepare itself for every responsibility and move from vacillating to participating in defining the directions and requirements of the phase.

The worst aspect of the race by some [Arab states] toward normalization [with Israel] is that it is a race that is taking place at the expense of Lebanon, its role, and future. [applause] Israel stands to lose the most from any project to promote Lebanon. Within this context, Israel wants Lebanon to remain the captive of anxiety, vacillation, and indecision indefinitely. No one must ignore this, and especially not government and nongovernment officials. This is manifested by the continuous Israeli attempts to erase UN Security Council Resolution 425 from the world map and to consider it as if it does not exist.

Domestic cohesion and unity obstruct any thoughts of abolishing our role in any field. The continuous casting of doubt and haphazard accusations lacking proof and facts do not serve the unity of our stance and do not increase domestic cohesion. We call on everyone to verify their utterances and to contemplate the results with national objectivity. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Supports al-Hirawi's Withdrawal Proposal

NC1411085394 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has supported President Ilyas al-Hirawi's proposal for the formation of a Lebanese-Israeli political and military committee to program an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. He said this is a courageous and daring proposal which has thrown the ball in Israel's court. Shaykh Qabalan said that Lebanon is still experiencing sectarian conditions worse than those it experienced during the civil war. This is because sectarianism these days has also taken the form of favoritism.

SLA Said To Fear Disintegration After Withdrawal

TA1111073194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Senior commanders in the South Lebanon Army [SLA] warn that if real guarantees are not forthcoming in the framework of agreements being negotiated with Syria and Lebanon, the SLA will disintegrate. One of the officers told Qol Yisra'el Hayim Hecht that any IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from south Lebanon would be a death sentence for thousands of Lebanese whose status has been linked with Israel for the past 18 years. Israeli officers in the north told our reporter that the SLA continues to operate as an effective fighting force.

Hizballah Says 2 Killed in Israeli 'Aggression'

NC1511080094 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Islamic Resistance continues the course of its master, the amir of the faithful, may God's peace and blessing be upon him, who said: We waged war, winning and losing, until God knew our honesty [words indistinct]. God knew the honesty of the believers and the Resistance men and granted them victory often. The ascendance of two martyrs to heaven means, among other things, that the war is continuing and so is the convoy of martyrs, until God's rule overwhelms the land for all [words indistinct].

With much pride, the Islamic Resistance has announced to the lord of the ages, may God expedite his auspicious advent, (?to the) redeemed leader al-Sayyid 'Ali Khamene'i, and to the [words indistinct] the martyrdom of [name indistinct] from Khirbat Silm and 'Abd-al-Amir Ahmad Fadil from [place name indistinct], who were martyred in the Zionist aggression against Iqlim al-Tuffah. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Reacts to Israeli Statement on SLA

NC1511083894 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible Islamic Resistance source has reacted to the allegations [words indistinct] Lahdist militias [South Lebanese Army, SLA], which sought to raise the morale of these militias [words indistinct]. The responsible source noted that the latest statement was made by (Uri 'Inbar), commander of the Zionist [word indistinct] in Marj 'Uyun. He claimed that Hizballah failed to harm Lahd Army members except in some cases [words indistinct]. He renewed the Zionist position (?calling) on the Lebanese Government to incorporate the Lahdist militias in the Lebanese Army.

Commenting on this, a responsible Islamic Resistance source stated the following: The Agent militias have become very weak, fragmented, and have virtually disappeared, thanks to the constant and painful blows the Islamic Resistance has dealt them. These attacks have worsened the structural defect from which the Agent militias are suffering, making the collapse of these militias only a matter of time.

The source gave the names of about 15 prominent officials in the Lahdist Agent Army who were killed by Islamic Resistance men in [word indistinct] operations. This is in addition to the killing of scores of members and the qualitative attacks against Agents 'Aqil Hashim and Riyad Al-'abdallah in their strongholds deep in the occupied region.

The source said ('Inbar's) claim that the Resistance failed to harm the elements of Agent Lahd except in some cases is ridiculous. Naturally it will not (?succeed) in hiding the worsening reality as reflected by the large numbers of Agents who have been killed, wounded, or taken prisoner.

The source added: We express our surprise that the Lebanese Government is remaining silent on the repeated statements made by enemy leaders about integrating the Lahdist militias into the Lebanese Army. The source questioned the silence if the position toward the Agents is clear by all national, lawful, and ethical standards: There can never be any place for these militias in our midst and in our ranks, because our people, who [words indistinct] at the hands of these Agents, cannot but adopt one position toward them. They will seek to punish them no matter how long it takes.

Islamic Resistance Attacks SLA Patrol

NC1411202694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance issued a statement this evening, saying that one of its units attacked a mechanized patrol of agent Lahd's militiamen [South Lebanese Army, SLA] on the road leading to the Bayt Yahun crossing. The statement said that fierce fighting ensued between the resistance men and the patrol personnel. The resistance men managed to destroy a half-tracked vehicle and to kill or wound a number of agents.

Islamic Amal Leader Condemns Reopening Marine File

NC1511091594 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamic Amal leader al-Sayyid Husayn al-Musawi has stated that those who are activating [words indistinct] the [American] Marines and the French [forces] are paying the bill for the [word indistinct] of the satanic West. He said that the [word indistinct] in Lebanon today are supposed to be adopting the same position against those who [words indistinct].

In a celebration marking [words indistinct] in its office in Ba'labakk, al-Musawi said that those who once confronted the Marines, the French, and the Zionists belong to the nation that [words indistinct] entered the headquarters of the Marines, the French, and the Zionists. He condemned the reopening of this file [words indistinct] and warned against using this as a political card. He said: We are honored to be part of a nation that continues to make blessed sacrifices, from the day of the Marine [bombing] to the day of al-Dabshah [reference to Hizballah briefly overrunning an Israeli position in south Lebanon in a recent attack]. He stressed that the struggle against Israel [words indistinct] a struggle between nations and that the [words indistinct] will not end with the establishment of a state in Gaza, because [word indistinct] is not there.

Christopher Visit Said Postponed Due to Election

NC1411063694 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] If reports about the postponement of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region are true, the setback resulting from the Congressional elections will have started taking effect. One of its first symptoms is what some Israeli sources have mentioned—that is, that Christopher has postponed his visit to the region for reasons described as technical. The sources added that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will discuss the postponement during his visit to Washington, which starts today.

The wheel of government in the United States has been expected to suffer from a technical failure, only natural for a cart driven by a Democrat and drawn by Republican horses. The latter wish to once more put their fingerprints on everything, including the Middle East peace process. It seems Christopher prefers to stay with Clinton at this time to help absorb the election setback and show goodwill.

Impact of Republican Victory on Region Viewed

NC1411180694 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 11 Nov 94 p 1

[Editorial signed by Chief Editor Rafiq Khuri: "Clinton and the Peace Settlement: The Constants and the Variables"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the United States and the Middle East there is ongoing activity to achieve a peaceful settlement, and there has been a necessary pause for revision. The political earthquake that took place in the United States is not without repercussions and aftershocks that affect our region. The growing talk about the U.S. Administration's desire to speed up efforts to achieve a settlement to score a foreign success—something the administration desperately needs at home—is not enough reason for us to overlook the new reality in Washington, nor does it conceal the fact that part of the Middle East war will take place in the Republican Congress. If one of Washington's concerns is to assert that foreign policy will remain unchanged, then one of the region's concerns is to find out the change in the position of the first player who exercises this policy.

President Clinton seems to be adopting the motto of Republican President Nixon, who said before leaving: "Man is finished not when he is defeated, but when he surrenders." He rejects surrender, although it is said in Washington that he has not yet absorbed the extent of the defeat he and the Democratic Party have suffered. He suggests that he will go back to business as usual by extending a hand of "cooperation" to the Republicans at home and by embarking on an Asian trip where foreign policy matters of security and leadership intermingle with domestic policy affairs of trade and economy. But the Clinton of today is not the Clinton of yesterday, even if he is still in the White House.

In the beginning, during the campaign for the presidential election and after the victory, Clinton's problem was his past: dodging military service under the pretext of opposition to the Vietnam war; smoking marijuana; committing sexual harassment; abusing authority when he was the governor of Arkansas, so much so that he and his wife were accused of concluding commercial and real estate deals at the expense of the taxpayer; having a weak personality; showing hesitation and willingness to please adversaries; and adopting a vague political line. Now that the Republicans have won the majority of seats in the mid-term elections for the Congress and state governors, Clinton's problem is his future: How is he going to rule in the remaining two years of his term? Can he win if he insists on running again, or will he lead the Democrats to a final defeat?

The conventional wisdom in the United States is that for the president to succeed the Congress should feel one of two things about him, if not the two together: respect or fear. President Clinton does not command either of these: The Republicans do not respect him, despite his readiness to cooperate with them after his strong attack against their programs and persons in the election campaign, and the Democrats do not fear him. They both know that Clinton, by nature, is a man of compromises, not of bone-breaking.

It is true that foreign policy is in the hands of the president, but it is also true that the Congress influences this policy in many ways, including using the financial power that it has. If practicing domestic policy runs into obstacles in the Congress beyond the president's control, practicing foreign policy also faces complications beyond the ability of the United States, all the more so if the president is in a difficult and weak position. This is especially true given the fact that the new Republicans who swept the Congress are from the conservative far right, who want to turn their attention to domestic issues and are calling for a "covenant with America." Their leaders, who will chair the important committees, including the Foreign Affairs Committee, are among the strongest supporters of Israel.

Everyone knows that Israel, which plans for everything, will play to the end the card of contradictions between the president and the Congress. No one knows to what extent President Clinton can now, irrespective of his willingness, pressure Israel to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on UN resolutions. But it is important for the Arabs to revise their calculations, whether the U.S. President indeed succeeds in speeding up the settlement process or is stopped by the Israeli obstacles, and whether the Arabs' old bet on the Republicans proves true or they find themselves before a new reality that erases memories.

A peace settlement has always needed a strong United States and a strong president. The process is now in its most delicate stages, and after being a vital U.S. interest, it is now a vital interest for the president and his administration. Will the weak President succeed in turning the impotence into a miracle by completing the peace settlement? Or will the region, which along with America is looking for something more than a settlement, wait for a strong president?

U.S. Said Displeased at Failure of Kidnap Attempt

MM1511100994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Muhammad Shuqayr: "Washington Discontent at Foiling of Hizballah Official's Kidnapping"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] Beirut—There are varying views regarding the reasons behind the continuation of the U.S. ban imposed on Lebanon, which was the pivotal issue of the meetings held and being held by the U.S. Task Force for Lebanon, which is expected to conclude its talks in Beirut today with a meeting with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri before it returns to Washington tomorrow.

A group of Lebanese believe that lifting the U.S. ban completely depends on the course of the peace process in the Middle East and its results on the remaining fronts, that is, the Syrian, Lebanese, and Israeli fronts. But another group believes that lifting the ban and the provision of economic aid and financial facilities depend on steps related to the establishment of security in all Lebanese areas, the elimination of the fait accompli forces—a term meaning Hizballah and fundamentalist tendencies—retaliation against those who harmed U.S. and Western interests in Beirut, and cooperation in extraditing those accused by Washington of committing "terrorism" against its nationals. [passage omitted]

A prominent deputy has said that leaders of the "Task Force" said openly that the peace talks on the Syrian-Israeli track are going through a critical phase, and that there is a chance to secure a crucial agreement by the end of next March or the beginning of April at the latest. [passage omitted]

The deputy does not link the legal requests issued to the security services by the investigating judge in Beirut, Riyad Tulay', to continue to look for those who blew up the marine headquarters and the French building in Beirut in 1983, with the U.S. insistence on pursuing the perpetrators of these two operations. [passage omitted]

The deputy said that the legal requests do not fall in the context of appeasing Washington, which seems to be alarmed at the foiling of the plan to kidnap a person accused of hijacking a TWA plane. He went on: "Although I have no information about the attempt to kidnap Hasan 'Izz-al-Din, I do not think that Washington is satisfied with that matter."

He attributed this to the fact that "Washington offered financial rewards to anyone who leads it to the whereabouts of those who have attacked its interests or taken part in kidnapping its nationals, including anyone who supplies it with information about their places of residence. And I do not believe that Washington is satisfied with the foiling of the plan, which conflicts with all it it is saying publicly about its position toward Hizballah and the fundamentalist tendencies."

The deputy expressed his fear that Washington may have linked the ban on its nationals' travel to Lebanon with the extradition of a number of people whom it believes are suspects and of whom it had prepared a list known to everyone. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, security sources in Beirut have told AL-HAYAH that "Hizballah was the first to uncover a plan to kidnap Hasan 'Iziz-al-Din involving the suspects [Haytham] Qazan and [Hasan] Hamdar in addition to 'Ali Talib, who was said to have supervised the implementation of the plan." The sources confirmed that "the party [Hizballah] managed to identify the planners of and the participants in the kidnap operation and to locate their places of residence. And that its role was limited to collecting information and putting it at the disposal of the security services, which assumed the task of foiling the kidnap operation and arresting two of the kidnappers." The sources pointed out that "the kidnap operation was planned over 45 days ago, and that the arrest of Qazan and Hamdar coincided with the presence of the third suspect, 'Ali Talib, in Beirut before he left—most likely—for the United States via a European state."

Al-Asad Reportedly Rejects Summit With Husayn

JN1411153094 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 9 Nov 94 p 28

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo—AL-QABAS has learned that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has rejected an offer from Jordan's Monarch King Husayn to hold a bilateral summit either in Cairo or Damascus, whichever is mutually agreeable, in the presence of the Egyptian president. The Syrian rejection was contained in the letter Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' conveyed to the Egyptian president the day before yesterday.

Arab sources in Cairo revealed that King Husayn last week asked Egypt to mediate to settle differences and clear the atmosphere with Syria, providing that he [King Husayn] pledges to mediate with the Israelis to bring viewpoints closer together and to persuade the Israelis, particularly Rabin, to respond to the Syrian demands for signing a Syrian-Israeli peace agreement.

Based on this request, the Egyptian president conveyed this proposal to the Syrian president who said that he prefers not to coordinate with the Jordanian and Palestinian authorities after they have violated the agreement among the Arab parties which participated in the Madrid conference, and signed separate peace agreements without coordinating with the other parties; something which Syria has rejected. This is in addition to the fact that Syria is currently coordinating with Egypt and Lebanon, as well as with the U.S. Administration, in accordance with U.S. President Bill Clinton's pledge which he made during his recent meeting with the Syrian president in Damascus. [passage omitted]

Country's 'Strategic' Role in Making Peace Noted

JN1511123594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH reviews in its commentary Syria's serious position on the peace process, which responds to the requirements and bases of peace and holds on to the restoration of land and rights as acknowledged by the international legitimacy.

In this regard, the paper says: There is no doubt that the strong and cohesive Syrian position, which is armed by international legitimacy resolutions and the world principles of right and justice, has prompted politicians and analysts to admit that it is impossible to establish peace without taking into consideration Syria's opinion and demands. This has also prompted them to stress that the region cannot step into the era of peace and stability except through the Syrian gate. This fact has prompted Mr. Martin (Anrel), official in charge of the Middle East in the U.S. National Security Council, to say that Syria plays a strategic role in regional stability. It is for this reason that President Clinton always talks about Syria in its capacity as the key to a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The paper says that Syria has made peace a strategic option that it will seek to realize without forfeiting a single right or ceding a single iota of the Golan and southern Lebanon.

Partial Settlements Said Not To Give Israel Security

JN1211210294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Nov 94

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Everybody agrees and asserts that the desired goal of the peace process—namely, a just and comprehensive peace, cannot be achieved unless Israel carries out a total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories on all fronts and unless it removes its settlements from these territories. Occupation is the antithesis of peace, which cannot prevail as long as Israel continues its occupation of Arab territories and maintains its settlements and settlers in these territories.

This was proved by the martyrdom-seeking operation at the Netzarim junction near the Gush Qatif settlement in the south Gaza Strip, which killed three Israeli soldiers and wounded 15 others. This operation, as well as the Tel Aviv operation that occurred a few weeks ago and killed and wounded tens of Israelis, and other operations in Jerusalem, Gaza, Hebron, and elsewhere in Palestinian cities and villages that were occupied in 1948, prove to the Israelis that unilateral deals and partial settlements cannot provide security, stability, and peace for them.

In order for peace to be comprehensive, just, lasting, and stable, Israel should withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories on all fronts. Settlements should also be removed from these territories because they constitute a source of tension in the occupied Arab territories. This was proved by the martyrdom-seeking operation that occurred at the Netzarim settlement junction south of Gaza Strip yesterday.

Just and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy; Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425; and the principle of land for peace in light of which the peace process was launched will achieve security and stability for everybody. This requires first of all an end to the occupation and a removal of settlements from the occupied Arab territories. Any talk about peace with Syria and Lebanon without total withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon and any talk about peace in light of unilateral deals and solutions is a waste of time and an unacceptable maneuver because such talk and such maneuvers will not serve the just and comprehensive peace for which the international community, represented by the Security Council aspires.

U.S. Interest in Peace Said To Survive Elections

MM1511104194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Nov 94 p4

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Seeing No Major Change After Elections, a Syrian Official Discerns U.S. Interest in Peace Process; Damascus and Beirut Positions Identical"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus—Syria yesterday declared, through one of its officials, that the U.S. interest in the peace process now seems more serious than at any other time in the past. It cited Washington's public indication of the importance of the Syrian position and its identity with the Lebanese position, which, it believes, means that there can be no just and comprehensive peace without them. The Syrian officials view with interest U.S. President Bill Clinton's renewal of his and his administration's commitment to continue the peace efforts and their emphasis on Syria's role in the quest for a just and comprehensive peace in the region despite the U.S. election results which somewhat weakened the position of the ruling Democrats under President Bill Clinton.

A Syrian official has stated that this emphasis by the U.S. President and his administration means, above all, that separate solutions do not establish security and stability in the region and that Syria's comprehensive and perceptive concept is the sound and correct one and is supported and found credible by the world states, not overlooking the obstacles placed continuously by Israel in the way of efforts made in the interest of progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

The Syrian official said that it may be premature to talk about the new U.S. role the world expects Secretary of State Warren Christopher to play on his forthcoming tour, because of the effects the results of the recent U.S. elections might have on Washington's foreign policy which President Clinton and his secretary of state said would not change.

There are indications that the Republicans do not oppose interest in the Middle East and in the Syrian policy, because the Americans, of all groups and affiliations, know that peace is in the interest of the world and, especially, the United States.

The Syrian official spoke of the importance of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to the United State because it comes at a time of increased U.S. understanding of the Syrian role and the Syrian demands for the establishment of real peace, these demands being full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon and implementation of the Security Council and other UN resolutions. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Golboddin's 'Subservience' to Foreigners Viewed

LD1411211294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Nov 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yesterday's offensive by the Golboddin militia from the eastern direction of Kabul failed. Golboddin personally commanded the offensive from the Botkhak area. [passage omitted]

The continuation of fighting against the Afghan state and nation, whether in the past or now, and its intensification, is linked to the subservience of Golboddin to foreign intelligence. Golboddin, who has been nurtured by foreign intelligence circles, is subservient to their order and instruction without having his own will or independence. Many years ago, Golboddin presented the independence and national sovereignty of Afghanistan to them, and we see that Golboddin has, over the past two years, implemented the wishes of those who gave the order for the destruction of the city of Kabul, and set fire to the 300-year-old capital of our beautiful country, Kabul.

They give SAKARs [rockets] to Golboddin and Golboddin showers them on the people of Kabul. He buries the residents of Kabul under the rubble of their homes with his masters' SAKARs. They give Golboddin kaldars [Pakistani rupees] and Golboddin pays his murderous and predatory militia with them. Golboddin destroys Afghanistan in return for their SAKARs and kaldars. [passage omitted]

Our country has become a training field for terrorists and an area for growing and smuggling drugs for Golboddin's masters, so the pockets of Golboddin and his masters are lined with money earned this way. [passage omitted]

Those foreign and alien circles who give Golboddin SAKARs and kaldars to destroy our country and to massacre our people can be called nothing but shamelessly and deviously hostile to our country and people. Why do they prevent stability and peace in Afghanistan and the tranquillity and security of its people? Why have they made Golboddin an instrument for the killing of our people and the destruction of our country? Do not the people of Afghanistan have the right of living in peace and calm?

Now that the United Nations has speeded up its efforts for the restoration of peace in Afghanistan and announced its peace plan in this respect, the intelligence of the aliens, madly, recalled Golboddin and gave him the order for the intensification of fighting and attacks on Kabul, and made availible to him 115 truck loads of weapons and ammunition to disrupt the UN peace process and for it to end in failure. Instructed by foreign intelligence officers to disrupt UN's peace plan, Golboddin has launched many attacks over the past three weeks, and madly tries to secure the pleasure of his masters by capturing the area to use it for acquiring more SAKARs and kaldars to increase the killing and destruction in Kabul. [passage omitted]

In all those battles, foreign mercenaries fought side by side with the Golboddin militia against Kabul. In yesterday's fighting, a number of Arab and Punjabi mercenaries participated. A number of them were killed and two others were captured by the mojahedin of the Islamic army. A number of Golboddin's militia were captured too. Our compatriots will be informed about their confessions in connection with the recent fighting of Golboddin.

'Honorary' Consulate To Open in Australia

LD1411191094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An honorary consulate of the Islamic State of Afghanistan was recently opened in Canberra, Australia, in a special ceremony. Esteemed Mahmud Sayqal, honorary consul of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, considered the establishment of the consulate an important event in Afghan-Australian relations. With the opening of the consulate in Australia, the problems of Afghans living in that country will be removed and visa facilities will be provided for the Afghans and the citizens of Australia.

Iran

Baghdad's 'Reluctance' To Improve Relations Viewed

LD1211143694 Tehran IRNA in English 1152 GMT 12 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 12, IRNA—A morning daily Saturday [12 November] pointed to the Iraqi regime's backing of counter-revolutionary groups and noted that notwithstanding Baghdad's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598, in practice it has shown reluctance to improve relations with its eastern neighbor.

"The MKO's [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] official admission into the Iraqi Army and the Ba'athist regime's financial, logistical and arms donations to the counter-revolutionary grouplets speak of disharmony in Baghdad's decision-making system", said the English-language "IRAN NEWS" in its editorial.

Baghdad's hostile moves come at a time when the Iraqi regime has been intensely ostracized in the region, the article said adding that as a last resort Iraq even extended a cordial hand to Israel, welcoming improvement of Baghdad-Tel Aviv relations. Disharmony in Iraq's foreign policy, devoid of consideration for the region's geopolitical position and the vitality of oil transit in the Persian Gulf, is like a double-edged sword that undermines Iraq and disrupts the region's security, said the daily.

"Given Iraq's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598, one finds it extremely difficult to justify the inroads launched against Iran by counter-revolutionary grouplets that enjoy the Ba'athist regime's support", it continued.

"At any rate," noted the daily, "the Islamic Republic of Iran considers the suppression of the insurgents as its legitimate right. Iran's November 9 attack on headquarters of counter-revolutionary grouplets in Iraqi territory reflects Tehran's firm resolve to defend its territorial integrity and, therefore, Iraq should not consider it as a cease-fire violation."

Commentary on UNSC Meeting on Iraqi Sanctions

NC1411082094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 14 Nov 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN Security Council [UNSC] is to meet today for the umpteenth time to vote on the economic sanctions on Iraq. Before today's UNSC session, important incidents have occurred in this field—incidents that can affect the Security Council vote.

A few days ago, Iraq recognized Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity hoping that the UNSC would lift the economic sanctions on them. These sanctions were imposed by the UNSC four years ago when Iraq attempted to occupy Kuwait, and they have continued until now. In order to achieve its end, the Baghdad regime has sent Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz to New York to officially request the lifting of the economic sanctions on Iraq from the UNSC.

Political analysts believe that although Iraq has gained the support of three of the UNSC permanent members—Russia, China, and France—with its diplomatic efforts, the ambiguous stands by America and Britain—the two other permanent members—and their veto rights can thwart these efforts by Baghdad or solve this problem within the framework of political transactions.

These analysts believe that Washington and London, which have for the most part based their regional policies after the Cold War on the polarization and the dichotomy stemming from the oil war, will most probably refrain from showing any immediate flexibility toward Iraq because lifting the economic sanctions on Iraq will allow Baghdad to again become a major player in the field of regional politics and affect regional alliances. For this reason America wants Iraq's return to the political scene of the region to be controlled and in conformity with its own regional policies. Of course this is something that the Iraqi officials see, hence Baghdad's recent indirect messages that it feels no enmity to the Zionist regime and that it recognizes the compromise process in the region.

What is noteworthy in the midst of all this is that Iraq's adventuristic and contradictory policies and America's regional policies both ignore the Muslim people in this region. The two forge ahead with their policies, without taking the views of the Muslim people into account; and this is the most notable weak point of such policies and something that can pave the way for the failure of such policies in the future.

Extension of UN Sanctions Against Iraq Viewed

NC1511080794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 15 Nov 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN Security Council has extended the international sanctions against Iraq for two months even though Iraq has officially recognized the border of Kuwait and presented official documents to that effect to the United Nations yesterday.

The reason cited for extending the sanctions against Iraq was that despite Iraq's announcement of the official recognition of Kuwait, the Iraqi Government's policy regarding Kuwait is not reliable. The U.S. representative to the United Nations—who is currently heading the Security Council and is opposed to lifting sanctions against Iraq—stated that the Baghdad government's actions could not be trusted and was able to have the sanctions against Iraq extended.

It appears that Russia and France, who were in favor of lifting the sanctions against Iraq, failed to convince the other Security Council members to lift these sanctions following Iraq's official recognition of Kuwait. The official recognition of Kuwait was only one of the conditions specified by the Security Council.

The other condition on which insistence continues is that Iraq hand in all documents pertaining to its military programs. Iraq has taken many steps in this regard but the committee for Iraq's disarmament considers them inadequate. Rolf Ekeus, the head of the committee for the disarmament of Iraq, stated that to implement a long-term program to control Iraq's arsenal, more documents regarding its military program on weapons of mass destruction are required. Baghdad has not submitted such documents to the committee.

Yesterday a group of UN experts arrived in Iraq to inspect Iraq's biological weapons so that they can collect data on them and submit their findings to the Security Council. Iraq's cooperation on this issue may positively affect the views of the Security Council members so that in two months the issue of lifting Iraqi sanctions will be reassessed and they will propound a more favorable opinion regarding Iraq.

Experts believe the United States will strive, more than ever, to restrict Baghdad and it is not too unlikely that two months on it will oppose lifting sanctions against Iraq on some other pretext.

Iraq's Support for MKO Criticized

NC1411215794 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 8 Nov 94 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "What Is Iraq After?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The operations by the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] on the borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran met with a timely reaction from the combatants of Islam and the den of corruption of the MKO in the heart of Baghdad was set on fire with one explosion after another. This incident once again showed that Saddam's regime is continuing its hostilities and spite against the Iranian nation and government in a bid to achieve its wretched ends. Apparently the MKO, which is working to benefit the Ba'thist regime that has failed in all its efforts to emerge from its isolation, is trying to show off. With his support for the MKO's operations, which were aimed at damaging the security of the Iranian border, Saddam Husayn wants to show that he supports the Zionist regime and pro-Zionist circles in imposing pressures on Iran. All these are within the framework of policies aimed at destabilizing and threatening Iran.

Some time ago, the Iraqi defense minister attended paramilitary exercises at the MKO's Ashraf base. While there he referred to the MKO members as the soldiers of Saddam. The Baghdad regime has set up a special office in its security organization with the intention of gradually merging the MKO into the Iraqi security forces. Also, it has allocated a new budget and military and logistical materiel to it, hoping to use it in one way or another to achieve its own ends.

This policy shows the duplicity of the Baghdad rulers, who are knocking on every door to free themselves from their problems and are resorting to political, military, and propaganda maneuvers to emerge from their isolation. But what is Iraq after? Do the Baghdad leaders think that by siding with those who are imposing pressure on and making threats against the Islamic Republic of Iran that they can be released from their problems? Does Iraq think that this time it can turn into a pressure instrument in the hands of the Zionists to render Iran's borders insecure and thus save itself from its current tragic situation? When will the Baghdad regime learn from history?

It was on the basis of such miscalculations that the Ba'thist regime started the eight-year war against Islamic Iran. In 1980 the Iraqi regime was supporting the objectives of the West and of America when it wasted its nation's assets for the sake of its own interests. But the epic-making resistance by the Iranian nation prevented it from reaching its goals. However, it was the people of Iraq who were sacrificed for the ambitions of the Baghdad regime, and Iraq—which was once one of the richest countries in the region—was turned to rubble, so that today hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children are dying from hunger. But instead of learning a lesson from history and adopting a realistic approach, the Baghdad rulers are once again treading an incorrect path.

The MKO—this wretched and criminal entity who even the American Government has described as a terrorist group and has not wanted to support to avoid disgrace—has become the criminal arms of the Baghdad regime and is looking for new supporters and mentors in Zionist circles. The Baghdad rulers and the MKO have turned into weak instruments that will only be disgraced with their acts. The Iranian nation is well aware of everything and will not fall into the trap set by world arrogance. But what is certain is that any operation against the national interests and the territorial integrity of Iran will be crushed and that the Baghdad rulers will gain nothing from their acts.

The Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry should develop a correct and principled policy and review its stances on Saddam's regime. While extending more support for the Muslim Iraqi people in their struggle against the unpopular rule in Iraq, it should assist them in achieving their divine goals. The Baghdad regime is the perpetrator of regional wars and conflicts and is the main reason for the presence of foreign powers in the Persian Gulf. The continuation of such a suspicious and dependent regime will constantly pose threats to the region. The permanent stability and security of this region is closely linked to the annihilation of this regime.

Clandestine Radio Calls For 'Savage' Action

NC1211101794 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Nov 94

[Station commentary: "Does the Clerical Regime's Conduct Not Deserve a Serious Stance?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Right from the outset, when the clerical regime took over, its unbridled ways became obvious to the international community and to the general public. So far, there are very few human rights organizations or progressive and developed countries that have not criticized and condemned the irresponsible and unlawful conduct of this regime.

We still see that the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to act in an even more savage manner than before and embarks on terrorist and tension-generating actions such as violating the sovereignty of other countries, and, in short, all kinds of misanthropic and criminal actions.

Thus, the clerics have proved that they do not have the slightest regard for humanity, for human rights, international law, sovereignty of other countries which are held in great esteem by the public and the international community. The clerical regime continues this inhuman conduct and ridicules peace and freedom and has adopted an antithetical attitude toward all freedom-loving concepts and peace-seeking efforts in the region. In this regard, not only does it not heed public opinion or the requests of the international community, it blatantly flouts them.

In such circumstances, the question arises: Are the international community and the United Nations in particular going to dole out advice and exhortations to the clerical regime and to give it free rein in continuing its irresponsible and unlawful behavior? Or will they realize that the time has come to take a categorical stance against the clerical regime and to penalize it as is deserves?

Also, will the United States and its allies—which ostensibly profess support for the Iraqi Kurds and have declared a no-fly zone—remain silent in the face of the aerial, land, and artillery attacks by the clerical regime on the territory of Iraqi Kurdistan and will they thus give the Islamic Republic regime a free hand to continue such acts? Or will they take a serious stand and block all similar actions by this regime in future?

We hope that the international community, and those who have realized the nature of the unbridled actions of the regime in one way or another and who realize that the clerical regime turns a deaf ear to constant denunciation or warnings by international organizations, will decide to adopt a categorical stance against the regime and put it in its place.

Agreement Reached With Kuwait on Expansion of Ties

LD1011182594 Tehran IRNA in English 1817 GMT 10 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 10, IRNA—Iranian ambassador to Kuwait Gholam 'Ali San'ati in Kuwait on Wednesday [9 November] had separate meetings with Kuwaiti ministers of public works and housing as well as ministers of state for cabinet, planning, defense and information affairs.

San'ati and the Kuwaiti officials exchanged views on Tehran-Kuwait relations, issues of mutual interest and latest regional developments. The two sides agreed on the need for all-out expansion of bilateral relations.

GCC Defense Ministers Meeting, U.S. Role Viewed

LD1211212694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 12 Nov 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The defense ministers of six members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council PGCC met in the Saudi capital of Riyadh Saturday, November 12th to discuss ways of bolstering military cooperation.

Reportedly, the talks among the defense ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman mainly discussed an increase in the personnel of their combined army, known as the Island Shield, to 25,000. Ironically enough this army did not take any effective measure when Iraq attacked Kuwait in August 1990.

In this regard it appears that the motive behind the meeting of the PGCC defense ministers was related to the Iraqi threat to the Kuwaiti frontiers. However as the result of international pressure not only the Iraqi troops withdrew towards northern Iraq, but the country's parliament too on Thursday November 10th accorded official recognition to the sovereignty of Kuwait and the common borders of Kuwait and Iraq. Although this measure by Baghdad is directed at lifting the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq, apparently it has not been welcomed by America. Washington has not considered this move as adequate to bring about change in the sanctions.

Observers believe that the United States intends to depict Baghdad as a continuing threat in the region so as to be able to sell more weapons to the littoral states of the Persian Gulf region. Purchase of abandoned sophisticated weapons by these states has already imposed heavy expenditure on their peoples. This is at a time when the PGCC members—due to the war waged by the allies against Iraq in 1990-91 that called for the presence of aliens, specially Americans in the region—have been paying colossal amounts and their installments are yet to be paid in full. On this account many of these governments are faced with [word indistinct] deficit and consequently have had to borrow money.

The recent Iraqi threat showed that the Persian Gulf littoral states, specially Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, despite having made colossal military purchases, still depend on aliens in defense matters. Hence they also have to pay all expenditures for the alien's presence on their soil.

In this way there is posed this question; as to what advantage the major arms purchases by the PGCC members bring to these governments and the security of the Persian Gulf region, but flourishing the military industries of the West, specially America? It appears that the more logical, the less expensive method for maintaining durable security of the Persian Gulf region is the removal of differences through holding constructive talks, participated by regional states, in a peaceful atmosphere.

Undoubtedly implementation of this plan calls for sincere cooperation among all Persian Gulf littoral states without the tension creating presence of alien forces.

This matter however is not favored by expansionist governments such as America.

Larijani Views U.S. Foreign Policy, Role of Islam

NC1211200994 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 2 Nov 94 pp 1, 16

[First of two-part editorial by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, secretary of the foreign policy committees of the Islamic Majles and the Supreme National Security Council: "Islamic Iran and U.S. Policies"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

1. United States and Victory of Islamic Republic of Iran

It is necessary to pay attention to the record of intervention and domination by the United States prior to the Revolution. Iran was the most important U.S. base in the region and this surpassed the considerations of material or political interests; its importance stemmed from the rivalry between the United States and the former Soviet Union for domination over this area. The loss of this firm base was a source of much contempt and hurt for the United States. Second, it was not prepared to accept the reality very easily and made (and continues to make) extensive efforts to retrieve at least a part of that influence.

These two points constantly assist us in comprehending U.S. behavior toward the government after the Islamic Revolution.

2. U.S. Concept of Islamic Revolution and Role of Iran

The United States has maintained its consistent notions with regard to the Islamic Revolution. At the outset, it considered it an entirely Iranian phenomenon and strove to prevent its victory or at least to ride the wave and regain its former domination over Iran. The shah's regime was not of much importance to the United States, just as the Saudi and Yemeni regimes are not important today. The only important consideration is that of U.S. interests and that is all. Whether these interests are legitimate and how this country defines its interests indicates the true nature of that administration.

However, the United States realized very soon that what happened in Iran transcended its borders. Perhaps the first inkling came when it reached the Shiite world, but it did not end there. The victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran initiated an extensive social process, which now continues throughout the Islamic world. This phenomenon, which has been labelled "Islamic fundamentalism" by the West, is not simple or without dangers for U.S. domination. On the contrary, the first country that is threatened is the United States.

The United States is dominant over at least some important regions in the Islamic world, such as Palestine, Egypt, and the Persian Gulf. The Islamic movement is seeking to establish Islamic governments, which in itself poses a natural threat to the domination and the hegemonistic network of the United States.

One may well ask: Why is Iran responsible for the Islamic movement? This is one of the fallacious notions of the United States, which believes that the great Islamic movement can be generated by covert espionage activities (such as those carried out by the CIA or KGB)! Perhaps the Washington echelons may continue to have this hysterical [preceding word in English] deduction regarding our revolution and government for many years to come and this is and will be the motivation for their illogical actions.

It is necessary to mention that the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and the success of the Islamic government and its efforts have certainly been and will continue to be effective in strengthening this trend. However, this is different from what the United States accuses it of doing.

3. U.S. Policy on Iran

There are numerous factors that forge U.S. policy with regard to Iran. They are as follows:

—The U.S. efforts for maintaining what it considers its vital interests in the Middle East, Persian Gulf, and the Islamic world.

—The image that the United States has of the proliferation of the Islamic movement and its perceptions of the effects on U.S. domination.

—Awareness of the supportive role of Iran and its defense and overt support for the Islamic movement.

—Not having direct access to Iranian markets, which is enjoyed by Europe.

—The U.S. defeat in toppling the Islamic system by resorting to a coup d'etat and military aggression by Iraq.

The results of these things and a summary of these factors in the minds of the Washington echelons during Clinton's tenure resulted in what is known as the dual containment policy. What is dual containment? Apparently it is simple. The United States claims that in the Persian Gulf region it is responsible for reining in Iran and Iraq. However, the meanings and outcome of this should be clearly understood:

4. The policy of dual containment: The initial implications and possibilities indicate an overt retreat regarding the reality of the Islamic government. This is because at the outset of the victory of the revolution, Washington constantly bandied the toppling of the system. It gradually transpired that the Islamic government in Iran has a firm and resistant core that can sustain innumerable onslaughts. The so-called policy of dual containment itself is an inherent step backward. This is because it concedes this fact [of Iran's system] and admits to the lack of such a possibility [of toppling it]. Thus, it has

gone a rung lower on this ladder and that is the reining in of the other opposing factor [Iraq].

This certainly does not imply that the enemy and his threats should be ignored.

The second important point deals with the possibility of the attainment of the U.S. objectives, which are:

—An extensive military presence in the Persian Gulf and littoral southern countries.

—Economic influence over the elements interacting with Iran.

—Utilization of the West's vast propaganda resources.

These three factors are not for uninhibited use. The U.S. military units in the Persian Gulf are under Washington's command but it does not display any clear sense in utilizing them! On the other hand, there are factors that are not completely under Washington's control and their effects are also obscure. Thus it may be deduced that the Americans cannot expect definite results from their policies in the short term and have invested in them for the long term.

Editorial Says Understanding of Islamic World Needed

NC1411111794 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 7 Nov 94 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Correct Understanding of Conditions: The Islamic World's Serious Need Today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Understanding conditions and bravely confronting situations calls for a correct and principled understanding of values and of aspirations. Between the lines of news items, information, and propaganda disseminated by the Western mass media we can see how—despite its different stands and interests—the West, led by America, has invested all it has in achieving one significant and basic end: unifying all the pro-Western regimes and the countries in the Middle East which have linked their future to ensuring the Zionist regime's security. The greatest obstacle that prevents easy access to this ideal situation for these countries is the spontaneous resistance by the Islamic movements in the region and the strong stand by the Islamic revolution with the Islamic Republic of Iran forming its pivot.

Western analysts have started or—to put it better—are continuing two simultaneous efforts to remove all the dams that stand in front of this process that they consider dangerous. The first effort is to cut off Iran as the pivot of Islamic movements in the region and to strive to sever Islamic Iran's bonds with the popular and Islamic movements in the Middle East. In his recent interview with the Voice of America, MacFarlane [former national security adviser to President Ronald Reagan] referred to the impact that this role by Iran has and described the continuation of the stands of Iran and of the Islamic movements in the Middle East in relation to the compromise process in the Middle East as disturbing. Several revolutionary personalities in the Middle East like Hasan al-Turabi too have tried to separate themselves from this process in one way or another and to adopt a more moderate stand; and this shows the intensity of the [West's] pressures.

The major tactic used by America in this effort is to put pressure on Iran, to fan the flames of domestic problems, and to propound, once again, the issue of extremism and moderation and to draw a line between these two. Undoubtedly, a correct identification of the true objectives of this propaganda and these political theories should be considered by the system which comprises a group of people who may have differing views on domestic issues but who cannot tread a separate line when it comes to the aspirations of the system. Steps, both at home and abroad, should be such as to ensure the general interests of the system on the one hand and the interests of Islamic movements in the Middle East on the other. Insults and calumnies; unrealistic, opportunistic, and temporary approaches; and remarks and comments by anyone and with any objective in mind will only help to strengthen those steps which will ultimately help to fulfill the objectives of the tactics which currently form the major framework of the policies of America and of the Zionist regime.

A few incidents that have taken place in tandem will help some people to see facts as they are. MacFarlane claims that Iran, as the pivot of extremist Islamic movements in the Middle East, has slowed down the compromise process and he has said that it should be isolated. In a meeting with Zionist officials, Ciller does not react negatively to the Zionist regime's call for a united stand against Iran. France and Britain, which have good political and economic relations with Iran, defend the stands of the United Arab Emirates against Iran. Saddam Husayn extends full support to the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq] at this juncture and provokes them to carry out military operations against Iran.

All these incidents are wretchedly linked together; and although they may appear to be different from each other, they are all moving in one direction. In all these incidents, isn't the West's concern over Islamic movements and especially Iran's stands very obvious? Do all these incidents not show how great the impact of the West's pressure is? The tactics too that are used in all this to create a rift in positions are also very obvious. These tactics are: weakening the system's situation at home; sparking confrontations; and propounding marginal issues, a clear example of which can be seen in the BBC's suspicious efforts to this effect. Do all these leave us any other alternative but to become more realistic, more sensitive, and more alert? If at this juncture we try to review the general process of the political-propaganda movements of groups, factions, and political and cultural circles at home, will we not be resorting to shortsightedness?

The second effort which is also very significant is the effort to instill the wrong belief that each one of the Islamic movements are different and that they should not be included in the same category. But why did these movements start? Why have people like Hasan al-Turabi been misled, and why are they trying to spread this inclination to us as well? Islamic movements form the grounds for changes in the countries that these movements take place and all of them have common objectives in mind: rejecting domestic despotism, reviving Islamic values, and struggling against Western and Zionist domination. There is no doubt that we should not be affected by the psychological atmosphere that has been created and know that we should support Islamic and popular movements. The Palestinian intifadah; the popular movements in Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, and Tunis; the Islamic resistance in Lebanon; and the popular movement in Saudi Arabia and Iraq are parts of the Islamic awakening in the Middle East. Our support for them and their support for the Islamic revolution is something which should not be ignored, since ignoring this is what the West wants us to do. And this is an unprincipled and dangerous process that has started in the Middle East which, if not prevented, will threaten the future of the world of Islam. Ignoring all these will not solve any problems.

Commentary: Objectives of Arab Maghreb Session

NC1311100494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 13 Nov 94

[Commentary prepared by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign ministers of Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunis met in Algiers yesterday to prepare for the summit of the heads of these five North African countries next month. The Egyptian foreign minister attended this conference for the first time. The Algiers meeting is the 16th session of the foreign ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union since 1988.

The objective behind the formation of this union was to achieve the political participation and the economic accord of its members. Achieving these goals would increase the collective strength of these countries with regard to the European countries and would have a considerable impact on the solution of economic problems as well as on accelerating the economic growth of each of the member countries.

But some political problems have prevented the Arab Maghreb Union from fulfilling these goals. The differences in the stances of these five countries in the oil war in the Persian Gulf, some of them supporting Iraq and others, namely Morocco, backing the Western allies; Libya being left alone in its confrontation with the West over the Lockerbie incident; and the increasing political instability in these countries, especially in Algeria, were among the blows inflicted on this newly formed union, blows that weakened its foundations enormously.

It can be said that the only thing that has kept this union going has been the common threat that the heads of its member countries feel from the growth and revival of the Islamic movement in the region. Thus political and security cooperation in a bid to adopt common measures to confront the Islamic awakening in North Africa has continued. And the inclusion of the Egyptian foreign minister on the list of the five Arab Maghreb foreign ministers is assessed within this context. This session is an instrument with which the heads of the Arab Maghreb can overshadow their problems at home; some of them—especially the coupist regime in Algeria—hope they can achieve legitimacy through it.

Gulf 'Sheikhdoms' 'Paranoiac' Arms Buying

LD1411162594 Tehran IRNA in English 1509 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 14, IRNA—It would not be an exaggeration if we said that nothing is more pleasing to a typical arms exporting country and its arms manufacturing establishment than seeing the Persian Gulf Arab states talk about defence, Tehran's English daily, KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said in its editorial Monday.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said, "Experience has shown that debate over defence by these sheikhdoms would inevitably lead to the idea of improving it. And for the sheikhdoms improving defence means acquiring more and more sophisticated arms. And that is where the arms exporting countries come in. They are ever willing to sell these sheikhdoms as much arms as they want, whatever kinds of arms they want, as long as the money keeps flowing westward."

The paper said that these Persian Gulf Arab states led by Saudi Arabia must be spending more money on arms than any other country in the world on a per capita basis to prepare for defence against what PGCC secretary general, Sheikh al-Qasim said [are] the "existing and latent regional challenges".

Once again the sheikhdoms are talking about defence. Their defence ministers started two days of talks in Riyadh Saturday to discuss improving their joint defence as well as a joint early warning system.

Elsewhere in its editorial, the paper said that concern for defence by any country is legitimate and understandable. But this concern by the Persian Gulf sheikhdoms has turned into paranoia, a paranoiac preoccupation with amassing more and more arms. The sheikhdoms' approach to defence defies any logic. They don't seem to base their approach to defence on any experience or understandable set of criteria. And experience has shown that these monumental amassements of arms have not managed to bring any additional security for these states.

"Spending exhorbitant amounts of money on arms and at the same time paying foreign armies to come and defend them every time there seems to exist a problem makes the Persian Gulf states look bad."

Their concern for defence in its present form is an exercise in futility and a waste of resources, resources that can otherwise be used to help advance the whole region. It is time they gave the matter more thought and changed their approach towards this issue, the paper concluded.

Article Examines Shapur Bakhtiar Trial in France

NC1511122994 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 6 Nov 94 p 2

[Editorial: "The Objectives of the Paris Trials"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The propagandist clamor and outcry by the French, American, and British mass media regarding the trial of those accused of murdering Shapur Bakhtiar and the organized efforts to link this action to the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran in current circumstances are the result of muscle-flexing by Zionist-affiliated circles in France. These circles are seeking to use various means to accuse the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran of such terrorist actions.

Such actions should be viewed against the backdrop of the factors of time and the distinctive regional and international conditions. The murder of Shapur Bakhtiar—according to the collective confessions of the persons actually accused, which the French judicial authorities have refrained from disseminating—are an internal settling of scores between rival groups and constitute an isolated act of revenge. However, the French mass media and courts that are following up such dossiers with specific objectives cite distorted or baseless versions, aimed mainly at lending credence to the propaganda by the Western media and the influential groups in the West, which are seeking to disrupt the growing trend of European-Iranian relations.

This scenario has been repeatedly enacted on various pretexts but has been the same in essence. The trial of those accused of murdering Kazem Rajavi [one of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization leaders], Sadeq Sharafkandi [secretary general of the Democratic Party of Kordestan in Iran], Qasemlu [predecessor of Sharafkandi], and now Shapur Bakhtiar are conspicuous examples of the truth of this statement.

It would be worth seeing what objectives are hidden behind this ostensibly political-propagandist action. Influential groups in Western countries who are mostly affiliated with powerful Jewish circles follow a policy that is part of the overall U.S. political-propagandist policy to which the great leader referred in his address to the students. [passage omitted]

Iran has given priority to the improvement and expansion of its relations with all the countries of the world except for the United States and the Zionist regime and is striving toward the attainment of this objective with all the means and resources at its disposal. Iran's success in preserving its proper and just relations with these countries have posed problems for the actions of the influential Jewish groups in France, Germany, Italy, and Britain. It is therefore natural that chimerical pretexts be used for conjuring up propagandist and aggressive scenarios against Iran.

At the same time, it must be borne in mind that the French Government—despite its declared political stance on broadening and improving relations with Iran—is not able to present truthful information [regarding relations with Iran] due to the pressure of the powerful Jewish groups. The ruling factions of the country that seek to maintain their position also stoop to accepting this situation which is tarnishing their political credibility and prestige.

The social crisis stemming from the increased leanings among young men and women toward Islam and the inability of the French Government to tackle this social dilemma due to their inaccurate perception of their national interests and political prestige has resulted in their capitalizing on these events in trying to resolve their domestic problems. They have tried to project in their overall propaganda the principled actions by the Muslim girls in France as being influenced by the women of the Islamic revolution. They are trying to depict a harsh image of Islam and Iran in order to incite public opinion in France to rise up and combat this social movement.

This is happening while the social conditions in France today, the insecurity, the absence of social identity, the lack of a positive identity and personality in women on the social and cultural plane have resulted in the French women and girls leaning more toward Islamic values and the use of Islamic garb. The French authorities, especially the influential Jews in this country, are feeling intense danger with the proliferation of such an atmosphere in France.

The organized campaign against the Islamic social movements in European countries are part of the main fears of the Zionist Jews and the powerful and fascist circles in the European countries. Scenarios such as the trial of those implicated in the Shapur Bakhtiar murder are the pretexts that can be capitalized upon to deceive public opinion in Europe about realities in those societies.

There is no doubt that the facts behind the scenes of this propagandist outcry indicate that it is a calculated move. Shapur Bakhtiar was the victim of internal animosities among the counterrevolutionaries, and the true agents of his murder, despite their confessions, are second-rate criminals. But the French courts are accusing the Iranian officials and are thus casting aspersions on their own country's prestige and record as an independent and free country.

The real losers in this trial are the French officials and people, as the French courts are losing their credibility as supporters of human rights and social justice. The French people are encountering the veiling of truth resulting from the deception by influential groups and mass media under the domination of Zionism. We believe that the public conscience in France and European countries will wake up to the truth of this propagandist scenario in the long term and will surmount this deceitfulness.

Commentary on Support for Nationals in France

NC1111134994 Tehran SALAM in Persian 3 Nov 94 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "Trial of Those Charged With Murder Casting Shadow on Iranian-French Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The trial of three Iranian citizens on baseless charges of murdering Shapur Bakhtiar has started at one of the courts in Paris. The French officials are in a state of perplexity and helplessness due to the assassinations that have taken place in the past few years. They are trying to cover the incompetence of their security apparatus and are resorting to thoughtless actions so they can absolve themselves before their people.

It is not the first time that Paris has taken such actions. During the crisis known as the "war of the embassies," Iranian diplomat Vajid Gorjiwas was kept under stringent surveillance and eventually the French authorities were forced to accept the reality of their overbearing behavior.

At that time, they capitalized on the old ploy of the independence of the judiciary, and now the same tale is being repeated. However, it is the duty of our diplomatic apparatus to support the rights of these three Iranian citizens and not permit the French authorities to disguise their incompetence with procedural details and psychological pressure on the three Iranian citizens. [passage omitted]

'Bandits' Killed During IRGC Operation

LD1011144894 Tehran IRNA in English 1128 GMT 10 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 10, IRNA—The ground forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) in a mopping up operation launched in Iranshahr, Sistan Baluchestan province, recently killed and wounded a number of bandits.

Among the killed is one of the most notorious ringleaders of the armed bandits known as Jalal, the IRGC's public relations office announced Thursday.

During the operations carried out in southwestern parts of Iranshahr by the IRGC ground forces and backed by helicopters of the Army Aviation Service (Havaniruz), the area was completely cleared of bandits.

A considerable amount of ammunition, guns, vehicles and narcotics were also seized in the operation.

Nepal

Polling for Midterm Elections Commences

BK1511071694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Nepal, polling for the midterm elections began a short while ago in all the 205 constituencies. AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent, Ratan Salve, who visited some of the polling centers in the capital, reports that despite the morning chill voters turned out in good numbers much before the polling began. In the mountainous region, people will have to trek a long distance to cast their votes. The Nepal Government has made elaborate security arrangements to maintain law and order. Army has been deployed along with other security forces in all the 75 districts. More than 15,600 polling centers have been set up throughout the kingdom for the 12 million eligible voters.

20 Arrested as 'Leftist' Group Loots Ballot Boxes

BK1511103694 Hong Kong AFP in English 0909 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu, Nov 15 (AFP)—At least 20 members of the United People's Front-Nepal (UPFN) were arrested Tuesday [15 November] in eastern Kabre district and Ropla, to the west, for allegedly looting ballot boxes, officials said.

The UPFN, headed by Babu Ram Bhattarai, has boycotted the mid- term election, charging it could not be held fairly and freely under Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala.

The leftist UPFN has reportedly been trying to obstruct voters and has demanded the abolition of the monarchy.

Voting at polling places in three southeastern districts has been postponed due to heated arguments between candidates and activists there, a police source said.

Except for a few clashes outside Kathmandu, voting was peaceful in the morning, witnesses said.

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